

16-YEAR-OLDS CHARGED IN 10 CITY ARSONS, PG 2

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Celebrity pg 34

Jolie gets fit with her kids' video games



23.3 per cent tax hike tendered

Average taxpayer looking at \$271.59 jump by 2011 in proposed city budgets

NEIL MACKINNON
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Historic growth that resulted in previously unmet needs has resulted in a proposed 23.3 per cent property tax increase for Calgarians over the next three years.

City Hall ended months of speculation yesterday, releasing their proposed operating and capital budgets, which include a

9.6 per cent bump in 2009, a 6.8 hike in 2010 and a 6.9 per cent increase in 2011.

Included in the proposed \$7.9-billion operating budget is funding for 242 more police officers, 130 more firefighters, 55 paramedics, 16 bylaw officers and 290,000 hours of increased transit service, said mayor Dave Bronconnier.

"By and large, this means that the average taxpayer will face a property tax bill of \$3.25 on a per daily ba-

"This will be very punishing for Calgarians who won't see anywhere near that kind of wage increase."

Scott Hennig, Canadian Taxpayers Federation

sis," Bronconnier said.

On the \$4 billion capital side, the city proposes to build four new firehalls, refurbish four LRT platforms and increase affordable housing supply.

Finance committee chair Gord Lowe said with un-

precedented growth came swelling demand that couldn't be met, and even with the proposed increase, no wants were satisfied and no needs were fully funded.

"That demand for growth, we're recognizing

that in the first year of this budget. The second year you'll find very little growth, with some very moderate growth in the third year which really reflects council's recognition of the uncertain economic times," Lowe said.

Bronconnier added no one, including himself, wants to pay more taxes, just as no one on council wants to levy hikes, but Canadian Taxpayers Federation's Scott Hennig said

Expected rise

- Average property taxes will jump from \$1080.76 in 2008 to \$1352.35 in 2011.

the numbers are "insane" and higher than the average Calgarian can afford.

"This will be very punishing for Calgarians who won't see anywhere near that kind of wage increase," he said.

FOR MORE COVERAGE, SEE P. 2

Local pg 6



U of C finds missing link in cell aging

Canada page 8

Harper chats with Obama

Movies pg 24

Craig's Bond back to basics

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Flames Taking down the Preds

Calgary Flames defenceman Robyn Regehr crushes the Predators' Vernon Fiddler during the first period of last night's NHL clash. The Flames humbled the visitors 7-6.

FOR MORE COVERAGE, SEE PAGE 22

Youth crime programs get \$60M boost

COMMUNITIES The Alberta government wants to get a chokehold on the causes of crime by spending \$60 million in programs aimed at kids.

In the second phase of Premier Ed Stelmach's \$470 million crime-fighting strategy, community-based programs that target crime will receive \$30 million, and community projects that are partnered with the police would also receive \$30 million.

"This fund will support projects that will get to the heart of what we are doing...and that's addressing crime in every community," said Stelmach. "We are going to empower communities to launch programs that focus on their specific crime issues."

The new fund will be divided equally between Edmonton, Calgary and other communities across the province, said Stelmach.

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Free Daily News Group Inc., operating as Metro Calgary. 120, 3030 - 3 Avenue NE, Calgary, Alberta T2A 6T7. Publisher: Steve Shrout

The Calgary Chamber of Commerce has joined in the chorus of those wanting municipal tax increases tied to the growth of inflation — and urging the city to curb its spending, viewing the proposed budget released yesterday as ‘out of touch.’ METRO CALGARY

Local



Farmers' Market rally

A group who want to keep the Calgary Farmer's Market at the Currie Barracks will hold a rally at the site Saturday, opposing Canada Land Corporations “green plan” intentions. The rally begins at the Garrison Blvd. playground at 10 a.m.

METRO CALGARY

Teens arrested in string of fires

RAIHAN ISLAM
for Metro Calgary

Two 16-year-old teens face a dozen charges in connection with 10 suspected arsons around the city, dating back to last month.

The two teens charged, whose names cannot be released due to the Youth Criminal Justice Act, were taken into custody yesterday in connection with a

massive Radisson Heights fire that destroyed two homes and damaged another Nov. 3.

Members of District 4 GIU later connected the pair with the 9 other incidents around the city's north and southeast areas. One teen faces seven charges and the other five.

Kelly Moroz, lead psychologist at the Moroz Child Psychology Group

in downtown Calgary, says blaming the kids is the easy way out.

“The main thing is the lack of supervision in these situations,” says Moroz. “And monitoring who they are hanging out with.

“These types of children need parents who aren't afraid to get in their face.”

Moroz also says it is important to observe the times these suspected in-

cidents are happening, as parents need to take responsibility and restrict kids from staying out late.

According to Moroz, there are many behavioural patterns that can be associated with these types of alleged actions, a big one being pure impulse control.

“Sometimes they methodically plot it, or sometimes it's a dare.”

Police suspect the pair

is responsible for fires dating back to Oct. 30 — a container fire in an alley at 3107 Rae Cr. SE — and ending with the house fire at Radisson Place SE.

As a result of the incidents, police said that two first responders were injured.

Police are thanking the public for the tips that poured in all week long, as the information led to the suspects' arrest.

Fees + taxes = big hit for Calgarians' pocketbooks

NEIL MACKINNON
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BUDGET Greg Hammer almost fell off his ladder when he heard what property taxes combined with new city service fees will mean to his bottom line.

At the end of three years, a 23.3 per cent property tax increase, \$96 for curbside recycling, \$48 in new fees for garbage collection and \$20.28 more for water and sewer, Hammer stands to pay at least \$415.90 more in 2011 than he does today.

“That's outrageous,” said Hammer. “I pay my mortgage bi-weekly and that's basically a mortgage payment, I'm really going to have to budget for that.”

Hammer, a young father with another one on the way, owns a home in Calgary's northwest community of Country Hills.

While mayor Dave Bronconnier is adamant Calgary's still on the bottom of the Canadian city property tax pile, Hammer thinks spending at city hall has gotten out of hand.

“I understand that we need infrastructure, that we need more police and EMS, but this is outrageous,” he said.

“I don't want to pay for the recycling, it's not something I need and they say our water treatment facilitys are top notch, but I have my doubts. I guess I'll just have to suck it up and pay it.”

Watch details of what the new budget could mean for your pocketbook at metronews.ca/local

Asbestos low risk for road workers

STUDY Groundbreaking research commissioned by the City of Calgary has found that asbestos in pavement has no serious impact on road workers.

The city, which recycles old pavement and grounds it down for use in new asphalt applications, was concerned that the process may have a negative impact on workers because it contained about one to two per cent chrysotile asbestos fibres.

“We've done testing since the 1980s but nothing near as extensive as this, said the Roads department's Barry Poon. “We felt that everything was OK but this study confirms that there is a very low risk to workers, well exceeding provincial standards.”

NEIL MACKINNON/METRO CALGARY

metronews.ca

WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY

Watch as the U.S. ambassador tells Canadians they will miss Bush and Harper calls Obama's win ‘truly inspiring’ at metronews.ca/Canada

Movies showtimes, trailers reviews and purchase tickets at metronews.ca/movies

Students find box-city an eye-opener

NEIL MACKINNON
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A massive scrap is brewing down at city hall over green space and it claimed its first casualty yesterday morning.

Calgary's ‘box-city’ mayor won't be running for re-election, he said, claiming the stress over the ongoing squabble has affected him both personally and psychologically.

“If it's this hard with just my class, it's going to be a lot harder to be the mayor of a big city, I don't plan on ever running for real,” said mayor Graison Ohman, an 11 year-old student at Nelly McClung school. “I have so many people saying ‘we need green space’ and so many people saying, ‘no we don't need green space,’ it's really hard and I promised I won't touch anymore, so I'll probably get voted out anyway now.”

Ohman was the lead man of 22 Nelly McClung students at city hall, putting their personal touches on a ‘box city’ as part of World Town Planning Day.

Councillor Sienna Brown, 11, said there was also a lot of discussion over jail placement, which was put right next to a hotel, but the process has opened her eyes



Cliff de Jong, city special projects coordinator, helps out Billy Pattinson, 11, as students from Nelly McClung Elementary school participated in World Town Planning Day at City Hall.

to what it's really like to plan a real city.

“We have to really balance the zoning,” she said.

Their cardboard and paper city had no roads; only light rail connections, horse trails, bike paths, buildings with

Watch Kids putting their city-building skills to the test at metronews.ca/local

“I have so many people saying ‘we need green space’ and so many people saying, ‘no we don't need green space,’ it's really hard and I promised I won't touch anymore, so I'll probably get voted out anyway now.”

‘Mayor’ Graison Ohman

solar panels and plenty of green space, as guaranteed by their mayor.

City special project co-ordinator Cliff de Jong, who helped mediate the rampant debate over how much land should be left building free, said it was an enlightening experience, even for himself, as youth aren't constrained by the same preconceived notions as adults.

“There's always going to be issues arise when you're dealing with a dynamic city like Calgary,” he said. “It's fascinating to see it from the kid's perspective.”

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4 local

TransCanada president wins business award TransCanada Corp. president and University of Calgary alumnus Russell Girling has been honoured for his support of the Haskayne School of Business. Girling will receive the school's 2008 Management Alumni Excellence award for his business and philanthropic achievements. **METRO CALGARY**



Josef Chudy, from left, of Slovakia, Oxana Guaya from Russia and Benazir Bawal from Afghanistan are looking to turn Calgary Police Service ESL classes into a law enforcement career.

Weekend, November 7-9, 2008

Taft wants rodeo to be official sport

PROVINCE "Alberta" may have different meanings for some, but for Alberta Liberal Leader Kevin Taft the thing that comes to his mind is "Rodeo."

Taft will propose to make the rodeo the official sport of the province on Nov. 24.

Larry Johnsrude, Alberta Liberals' director of communications, says at the moment Alberta simply has no official sport.

"It's been a long and strong tradition in Alberta," says Johnsrude. "We're hoping this motion gets passed."

METRO CALGARY

Suspect sought in sympathy scam

FRAUD Police are looking for a man in relation to fraud and assault cases in which a man fabricated stories to get money from people, in some cases becoming violent. On Wednesday at the Plus15 walkway at 150 - 9 Ave. a man told a woman he was sick and needed taxi money, and when she gave him money, he forced her to withdraw more from the ATM.

METRO CALGARY

Training cops in ESL

NEIL MACKINNON
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Oxana Gulaya was only in Calgary two months before taking advantage of a Calgary Police Service program intended to bolster the force's ranks with new immigrants.

Gulaya left her job teaching Russian police recruits English 18 months ago and moved to Calgary, almost

immediately enrolling in a CPS English as a Second Language program which has enrolled 60 students who will soon join the city's front-lines.

"I knew those people could make changes in our lives and so I decided make changes, make a difference," said Gulaya, who started the 21-week program yesterday. "Canada and Calgary itself, it's a diverse country and city, so I think

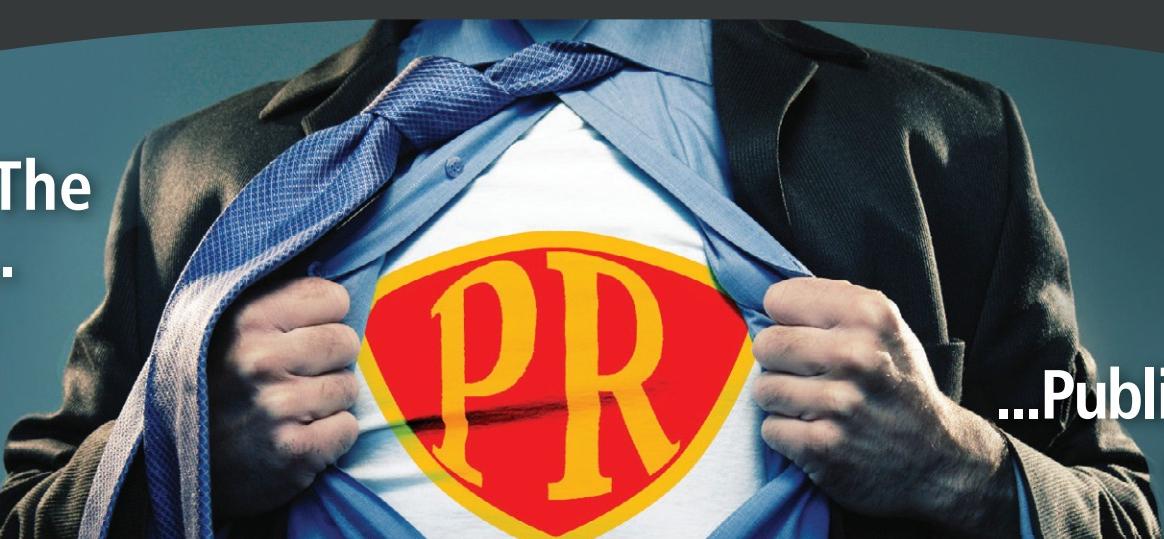
that I will be an asset here."

Three years ago, founder and instructor Const. Al De Vries said he noticed a high number of qualified individuals doing a lot of low-paying, entry level jobs and "I thought that was a waste and a shame ... At the same time, Calgary police was having a hard time filling their recruit classes, so I devised a plan and put together a proposal to deal with both those situations."

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The Beauty of Mathematics? What the $x \div \# \% -$ does that mean?

When the symbols and numbers just didn't add up for Christy Martin she threw her textbook across the room in sheer frustration. Her instructor Dr. Indy Lagu knew that in order to help her get answers he had to ask the right questions. Check out their final solution at mtroyal.ca/facetoface and click on *The Face of Mount Royal*.

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Delaying old age?

Researchers make critical breakthrough

RAIHAN ISLAM
for Metro Halifax

University of Calgary researchers may have found a critical link to delay the aging process, which could slow down diseases associated with old-age, like the onset of cancer.

Hutchinson-Gilford Progeria Syndrome (HGPS) is a disastrous disease when aging is immensely accelerated.

Children who are born with this virus, rarely live past the age of 15.

Karl Riabowol, U of C's faculty of medicine and lead researcher in the project, says the fundamental part of aging is the cells themselves aging.

He says this occurs because the cells are constantly at war.

"Every time you get a cold, or some sort of ailment, your immune system and cells are in battle, trying to fix the problem," says Riabowol.



Mohamed Soliman and Karl Riabowol conduct tests in a gene array lab where some of their work on determining how cells are aging was conducted.

"Understanding how the cells age is the first step to slowing it down."

Karl Riabowol

body age at an accelerated speed.

"Understanding how the cells age is the first step to slowing it down," says Riabowol. "I think we've figured this out."

Riabowol, alongside researchers at the University of Florida have been working on this project for the past three years.

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The hunters who found the body of 15-year-old Brandon Crisp in a forest in central Ontario on Wednesday, said its clear the boy has been there a while, but they said his clothes were in such good condition they thought it unlikely the boy was there for the whole three weeks he was missing. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

Canada



Bad feed blamed for mad cow

An official investigation into Canada's 13th case of mad cow disease said Thursday infected feed was most likely to blame — the same reason given in many previous cases. The animal, a five-year-old dairy cow from a farm in British Columbia, was identified in June 2008. Since then an additional instance of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) has been discovered in Canada.

REUTERS

Charest's economics doubted

VOTE One day down and already Quebec Premier Jean Charest's call to Quebecers to give him a majority based on his sound management of the economy has been dented over doubts about those very finances.

What Quebec's two opposition leaders question is Charest's claim to having a \$2.3 billion reserve.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



Quebec Premier Jean Charest speaks to the Board of Trade of Metropolitan Montreal, yesterday.

SHAWN BEST/REUTERS

Harper calls Obama

Prime Minister Stephen Harper and U.S. President-elect Barack Obama spoke about the global credit crisis, the environment and the military mission in Afghanistan in their first conversation following Obama's historic victory.

Harper and Obama shared a "warm exchange" and vowed to remain strong allies, a senior government official said of the phone call that took place yester-

day afternoon. "(Harper) raised issues where we have common ground," the official said.

Harper and Obama also discussed the emergency meeting with G-20 world leaders in Washington next week, the government official said.

Harper congratulated Obama on his win in Tuesday's election, and the two leaders agreed to speak again soon, although it is

not yet known whether they will be able to meet privately at the G-20 summit, the official said.

"This is a tremendous, historic occasion for the United States in all kinds of ways," Harper said at a news conference.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Watch as the U.S. ambassador tells Canadians they will miss George W. Bush at metronews.ca/Canada

What you need to know about

Repaying your Alberta Student Loan

It's easier than you think!

Your Alberta Student Loan must be paid back. Making regular monthly payments will help you establish a good credit rating.

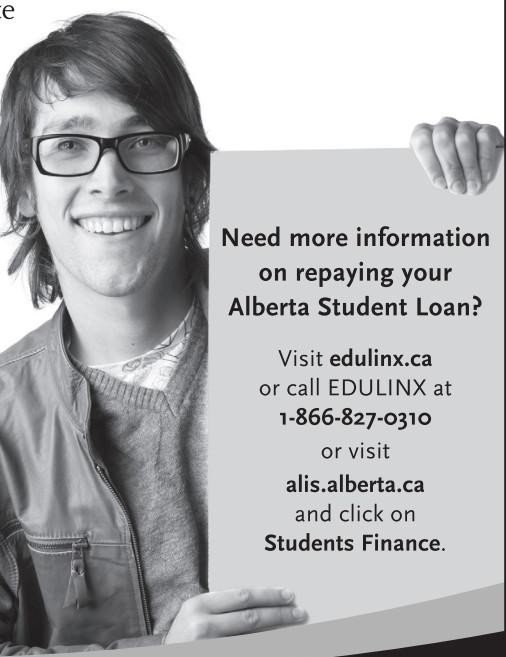
Need a hand? Act now.

Customize your payments

- You may change the payment amount, the payment term, or the payment date to work for you.

Interest Relief

- Can't pay? You may qualify to get a break from making payments and your loan is interest free.



Need more information on repaying your Alberta Student Loan?

Visit edulinx.ca or call EDULINX at 1-866-827-0310 or visit alis.alberta.ca and click on Students Finance.

Trudeau Proud day for a mother



Newly elected Liberal Member of Parliament Justin Trudeau, son of late Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau, is congratulated by his mother Margaret Trudeau after being sworn in during a ceremony on Parliament Hill yesterday.

Cities wants funds for infrastructure

JOBS The federal government is sitting on \$3 billion in unspent infrastructure funding, money that could be used to create thousands of jobs and help immunize Canada's economy against recession, municipal officials say.

Officials with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities went to Parliament Hill yesterday to urge Ottawa to step up infrastructure investments as a way to "soften" the impact of a slowing economy.

To bolster their case, the body cited a report showing that a \$3 billion investment in infrastructure would create almost 100,000 jobs.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

News in brief

FOOD The federal government is about to unveil tough new listeria testing rules in food plants across the country, Torstar News Service and CBC have learned.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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SHOPPERS
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CAW wants governments to buy local

The Canadian Auto Workers union called on governments across Canada yesterday to ensure that the billions of dollars they spend annually on goods and services should go, at least in part, to Canadian companies.

"Canada's top athletes brought our hopes and aspirations with them to Beijing this summer, but where were their uniforms made? In China," Ken Lewenza, president of the CAW said at a press conference.

Spending

- In 2007, a combined total of \$544 billion was spent by municipal, provincial and federal governments in Canada.

"We were supposed to send our athletes to China, not our jobs," Lewenza said.

The union says it would like to see more of those tax dollars spent at home, and argues that national buy-Canadian policies would not violate any international trade agreements.

REUTERS



Minister of Finance
Jim Flaherty.

MATT BLINCH/REUTERS

What you need to know about

paying your 2008 Alberta health care premiums

Payments and registration. Keep them both current.

Albertans will no longer be billed for new health care premiums in 2009, however, premium payments owing to December 31, 2008, remain in effect. This means that Albertans must continue to pay 2008 premiums or, if applying for new coverage, register and pay the required premiums.

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR PAYING 2008 HEALTH CARE PREMIUMS?

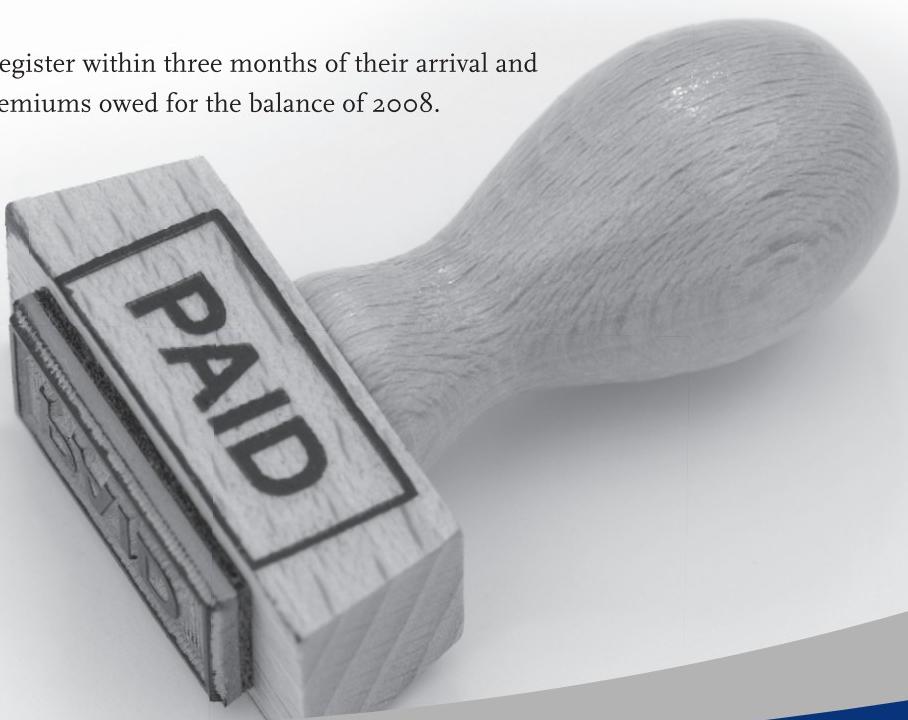
- All Albertans unless they qualify for premium assistance, government-sponsored income support programs, or are senior citizens.
- Employers and benefit administrators who collect and/or remit premiums on behalf of their employees.
- New Albertans who have registered for the Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan.

Alberta Health and Wellness will be collecting premiums beyond December 31 until all outstanding premiums are paid and will continue to pursue those collections. As well, those who are paying Alberta Blue Cross Non-group insurance premiums, or other supplemental health premiums, will continue to pay in 2009 as those premiums will remain in effect.

KEEP YOUR HEALTH RECORDS CURRENT AND REGISTER.

- If you have had a change in name, address, dependants or marital status, please notify Alberta Health and Wellness.
- New arrivals are required to register within three months of their arrival and will be responsible for any premiums owed for the balance of 2008.

For more information, visit www.health.alberta.ca or call toll-free 310-0000 then dial 780-427-1432. In Edmonton, call 780-427-1432.



"These are uncharted waters. We have to be pragmatic. There's no closed-mindedness, there's no ideological refusal to consider proposals."

Jim Flaherty

Flaherty has already offered up to \$25 billion to domestic banks through purchases of insured mortgages, as well as extending guarantees to Canadian banks in wholesale credit markets.

Ottawa could boost the mortgage purchase plan to double or more and has a "ladder" of other options at its disposal that it can implement if necessary, he said without elaborating.

Manufacturers, hard hit by the credit crisis and economic slowdown, especially in the United States, have now pressed Ottawa for loan guarantees and lines of credit.

Flaherty said that while he seeks to avoid what he would consider "bailouts" of specific businesses, he is mindful that these are extraordinary circumstances that may require unusual measures.

"These are uncharted waters. We have to be pragmatic. There's no closed-mindedness, there's no ideological refusal to consider proposals," he said.

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Court appearances for a man accused of beheading a passenger on a Greyhound bus last summer have been limited following threats against him. Vince Li has been charged with second-degree murder in the death of Tim McLean, who was stabbed and decapitated near Portage la Prairie, Man. **CBC NEWS ONLINE**

Credit crunch hits Olympic developer

Report says city gave builder a \$100M loan

The city of Vancouver is confident the athletes' village for the 2010 Winter Olympics will be finished on time, after a report yesterday that it had quietly lent the builders \$100 million to weather a financial crunch.

City officials refused to confirm or deny that the loan had been given, but said in a written statement "the financial and schedule risks assumed by the city with respect to the Olympic village remain unchanged."

Vancouver city council approved the money in a closed-door session on Oct. 14, when the private developer was struggling with the international credit crunch and cost overruns in a slowing housing market, the Globe and Mail newspaper reported.

"The city is confident the Olympic Village will be completed on schedule,"

VANCOUVER 2010 Games

2,800

and turned over to VANOC (the Vancouver Organizing Committee) as planned," officials said.

The project to house 2,800 athletes and officials for the Vancouver Games is being built by Millennium Development Corp in partnership with the city, which is ultimately responsible for its completion in time for the Games.

VANOC, which provided the project with \$30 million of the \$580 million in venue funding it received from the federal and provincial governments, has also said it was confident the project will be ready on time.

Millennium is marketing the housing units as environmentally friendly condominiums that will be available for use after the

REUTERS

The number of athletes and officials that will be housed by the Olympic Village being built in Vancouver for the 2010 Winter Olympics.

Olympics. A receptionist said on Thursday the company's spokesman was on vacation and that no one else could comment.

The full cost of the project has been estimated at about \$1 billion, and as part of the public-private partnership some of the units will be made available as affordable or social housing.

The 2010 Games will also have a second athletes' village in the ski community of Whistler, north of Vancouver, where many of the alpine and nordic events will be held.

Lottery Group wins over \$40 million on Lotto 6/49



Lotto 6/49 winners, left to right, Blake Sloan, Susan Hellyer, Nancy (hidden) and Dave Nicholson, Stan and Bev Cowan, and Mark Waters celebrate their win in Toronto yesterday. The group won a total of \$40.4 million.

ANDREW WALLACE/TORONTO STAR NEWS SERVICE

Ottawa debates how to spend transit funds

BUILDING A downtown tunnel's likely to come first, but what gets built next will be the devil in the details when Ottawa reveals how it may construct its nearly \$4 billion transit network.

Transportation chair Coun. Maria McRae said she's expecting "a mixed reaction" to

Transportation Master Plan recommendations that will be submitted on Monday to the transit and transportation committees.

Along with proposed new roads and pathways, the plan will outline what areas will be first to get light rail tracks. And while McRae suggested a

tunnel would be a priority, she predicted people would be disappointed by what phases get done next.

Securing the federal and provincial governments' contributions will dictate which areas prevail, said Coun. Alex Cullen, who chairs the transit committee.

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Russian suicide bomber kills 11

A suspected suicide bomber killed 11 people outside a Russian market yesterday, prosecutors said, in one of the worst attacks in months to hit Russia's turbulent North Caucasus region.

REUTERS

13

World

"We found younger volcanic activity on the far side of the moon."

Makiko Ohtake of the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency.



Moon volcano

High-resolution photographs capturing the far side of the moon have revealed volcanic activity earlier than previously thought pegging it at 2.5 billion years ago.

REUTERS

Economic team set to meet

Barack Obama will meet his economic team today and hold his first news conference since becoming U.S. president-elect as the country awaited signs of how he might tackle the economic crisis.

Obama, who stands to inherit the worst financial crisis since the Great Depression, faced pressure to announce his picks for key economic jobs, including Treasury secretary, though there were no indications of when he might do so.

On Wall Street, stocks closed sharply lower for a second day. The Dow Jones industrial average tumbled 443.48 points, or 4.85 percent, after plummeting almost 500 points or about 5 percent Wednesday — the biggest fall ever on the day after a presidential election.



A picture of U.S. President-elect Barack Obama is projected as Kanye West and Estelle (both not pictured) perform during the MTV Europe Music Awards ceremony in Liverpool, northern England, yesterday.

Though the timing of the Treasury secretary announcement was uncertain, names being considered for the job included

Timothy Geithner, president of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, former Treasury Secretary Lawrence Summers and

Unusual welcome

- Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi gave an enthusiastic, if unconventional, welcome yesterday to the election of Barack Obama, citing among his attributes youth, good looks and a suntan.

former Federal Reserve Chairman Paul Volcker.

Summers and Volcker were on the 17-member transition economic advisory board who will meet with Obama Friday, a statement from the transition office said.

Obama made his first key appointment by naming U.S. Rep. Rahm Emanuel of Illinois, a brash veteran of President Bill Clinton's White House, to chief of staff. REUTERS

Obama media bias did not exist: Experts

POLITICS At times during this year's U.S. presidential race, it seemed that supporters of Republican John McCain bashed journalists covering his campaign almost as hard as they did his Democratic rival, Barack Obama.

McCain partisans were roused to anger by a perception that mainstream news organizations routinely gave Obama preferential treatment en route

REUTERS

to his election as the first black U.S. president. But media scholars, including a former top aide to McCain, disagree. They said campaign coverage often did lean in Obama's favour, though not because of a hidden liberal agenda.

Experts said Obama's poll numbers rose in response to events within the campaign, not the daily news cycle.

REUTERS

News in brief

FAITH Catholic and Muslim leaders at unprecedented Vatican meetings vowed yesterday to jointly combat violence committed in God's name, and to foster equal rights for minority faith groups.

MOVIES Hollywood movie houses said yesterday they are turning the silver screen "green," by cutting waste, energy and costs in an industry known for over-the-top productions.

REUTERS

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Bhutan Coronation



Bhutan's King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck receives greetings from children in the courtyard of Tashichhodzong Palace during celebrations marking his coronation ceremony in Thimphu yesterday.

Temporary setback

Gay rights activists hopeful despite California loss

California revoked same-sex marriage this week and more states joined the strong majority that define marriage as between a man and a woman — yet gay rights activists see a bright future for their cause.

While a conservative-backed ballot measure banning same-sex marriage passed in California Tuesday, it is a measure of the gay movement's success that it is now fighting for civil rights instead of mere acceptance of a sexual orientation that was seen as deviant and criminalized

just a few decades ago.

San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom said he was "tremendously optimistic" about the future of same-sex marriage in California despite the election loss. Gay couples in California wed for nearly half a year after winning a state Supreme Court battle in May.

A San Francisco candle-light vigil on Wednesday night that turned into a cheering session on the steps of City Hall, and Los Angeles-area clashes with police in riot gear were two post-election signs that the gay community

does not expect to fade quietly away.

"How can you just decide 'OK we can't have rights, I guess we'll just have to be cool with that?' It's my country, too, god-damnit," said Becki Holub at the San Francisco rally.

Many U.S. states have made clear they don't want same-sex marriage — more than half have laws defining marriage as between a man and a woman, including additions by California, Arizona and Florida on Tuesday, when Arkansas also stopped gay couples from adopting children.

REUTERS

Babies' play patterns, eye contact linked to autism

HEALTH Babies who were later diagnosed with autism played with toys in unusual ways, spinning or rotating them more than other babies, researchers reported yesterday.

The findings, reported in the journal *Autism*, might help doctors and parents identify children at risk of autism and start to help them earlier, researchers said.

Babies who went on to develop autism also stared noticeably at objects such as bottles, or looked at them out of the corners of their eyes, Sally Ozonoff of the University of California Davis and colleagues found.

"There is an urgent need to develop measures that can pick up early signs of autism, signs present before 24 months," Ozonoff said in a statement.

The American Academy of Pediatrics has recommended all infants be screened for autism before they turn two.

REUTERS

Obama, Olmert talk peace, friendship

PEACE Outgoing Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert called U.S. President-elect Barack Obama yesterday and both spoke about the need to press ahead with the peace process with the Palestinians, Olmert's office said.

In a statement, Olmert's

office said the prime minister and Obama "both spoke about the need to continue to advance the peace process, and this, while safeguarding the security of Israel."

The statement also said Obama and Olmert "spoke about the long friendship

between the United States and Israel and the need to preserve and strengthen this friendship."

The White House said yesterday that an agreement was unlikely to be reached before President George W. Bush leaves office in January.

REUTERS

News in brief

POLITICS U.S. Sen. Joe Lieberman took a first step yesterday toward finding out what punishment he may face for backing Republican John McCain for president this year. Lieberman met privately with Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid.

FOOD Consumers should expect to pay more for food as economists warned prices will rise by at least seven per cent in 2009 because of higher feed costs for animals. Food inflation is the highest since 1990.

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Researchers have developed some of the tiniest solar cells ever made and said yesterday the organic material could potentially be painted on to surfaces. They have managed to pull 11 volts of electricity from a small array of the cells, which are each just a quarter of the size of a grain of white rice. **REUTERS**

UAW chief pleads for assistance

United Auto Workers President Ron Gettelfinger yesterday urged the U.S. government to provide another \$25 billion in loans to struggling U.S. automakers so that they can meet their healthcare obligations to over 780,000 retirees and their dependents.

"The U.S. Treasury and

UAW backed Obama

- The UAW backed Obama, and the union campaigned for him in key states like Michigan, Ohio and Indiana where its active membership is concentrated.

the Federal Reserve can help immediately by taking steps to provide liquidity to auto manufacturers so they can get through

the difficulties caused by an across-the-board decline in auto sales," Gettelfinger said in a statement released by the union.

Gettelfinger joined the chief executives of General Motors Corp, Ford Motor Co and Chrysler LLC in meetings yesterday afternoon in Washington with House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid to plead the case for urgent aid to the embattled auto industry.

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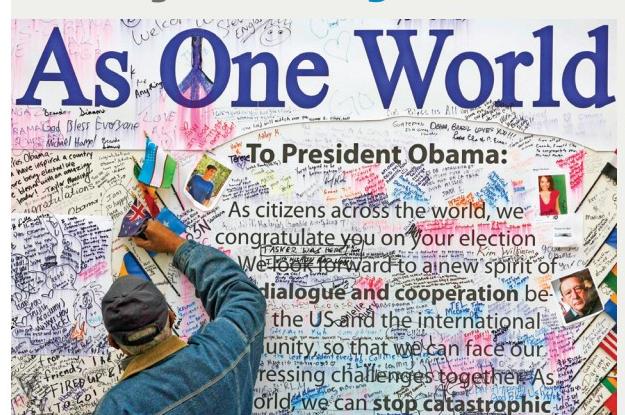
SOURCE: NADbank Fall 2007/Spring 2008 Survey, read yesterday; BASE: Montreal, Ottawa-Gatineau, Toronto, Edmonton, Calgary, Vancouver; CMA 18+

News in brief

BRITAIN Britain's ruling Labour Party won a parliamentary election in Scotland yesterday in a sign that Prime Minister Gordon Brown's handling of the financial crisis has turned around his political fortunes. Just months ago, some Labour members openly questioned Brown's leadership after the party lost a string of elections and fell 20 points behind the opposition Conservatives in the opinion polls. But Brown's determined handling of the banking meltdown has cut the Conservative lead to 9 points. Despite economists warning that Britain is on the brink of recession some analysts are predicting with this recent win that Britain will see a "Brown bounce."

REUTERS

Washington Message to Obama



A man signs a message board dedicated to U.S. President-elect Barack Obama in front of Lincoln Memorial in Washington yesterday. The wall was constructed on Wednesday and will stand all week for people to view and write their thoughts to the new president

Paloma becomes hurricane

WEATHER Tropical Storm Paloma grew into a Category 1 hurricane yesterday and was expected to strengthen further as it churned through the Caribbean on a path that threatens the Cayman Islands and storm-weary Cuba, U.S. forecasters said.

The 16th storm of the 2008 Atlantic hurricane season appeared to pose no threat to vital U.S. oil in-

stallations in the Gulf of Mexico.

But it came in the last month of what experts correctly predicted would be a busier than normal storm season and may bring more grief to Cuba, which is still reeling from two powerful hurricanes that caused more than \$5 billion in damage two months ago.

REUTERS

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Rocks could help slow global warming

A rock found mostly in Oman can be harnessed to soak up the main greenhouse gas carbon dioxide at a rate that could help slow global warming, scientists say. When carbon dioxide comes in contact with the rock, the gas is converted into minerals. **REUTERS**

Bali Bombers to be executed

An Indonesian hardliner Muslim drinks beside a poster of the men convicted of a 2002 nightclub bombing in Bali that killed 202 people. The attorney general's office has said the three militants would be executed in early November.

News in brief

ELECTION New Zealand's centre-right National Party is poised to lead the country's next government, ending nine years of Labour Party rule, according to a crop of polls released a day before a national election. Four surveys showed National with a lead of

between 11 and 17 percentage points over Prime Minister Helen Clark's Labour, which is seeking a fourth three-year term.

HAMAS The Islamist group Hamas is unlikely to take part in an Egyptian-sponsored Palestinian reconciliation con-

ference on Sunday, a top Hamas official said. Egypt has invited Hamas and Fatah to the meeting, along with smaller Palestinian factions, to try to heal a rivalry that burst into open conflict after Hamas seized control of the Gaza Strip last year.

REUTERS

Militants give Obama warning

An Iraqi insurgent coalition and the Taliban warned U.S. President-elect Barack Obama to withdraw U.S. forces from Iraq and Afghanistan or face more resistance, U.S. monitoring groups reported yesterday.

The messages express an openness to new relations with the United States under Obama, who has pledged to break with outgoing President Bush's policies on both wars

"There is neither sadness nor happiness among the Taliban groups over the election of Barack Obama as U.S. president," Qari Mohammad Yousuf, a spokesman for the Taliban in Afghanistan.

"If (the occupation) was not done, Afghans will show strong resistance to every foreign occupation," he said.

During the campaign

"Afghans will show strong resistance to every foreign occupation."

Obama pledged to withdraw combat troops from Iraq on a timetable he said could be completed within 16 months, and to bolster forces battling Taliban and al Qaeda militants in Afghanistan. He said he was willing to send U.S. troops into neighboring Pakistan without notice if needed to strike a high-profile al Qaeda target.

Yousuf said the Taliban was open to talks with an Obama administration, but only on the condition of total Western troop withdrawal.

In Iraq, the Political Council for the Iraqi Resistance, an umbrella organization of Sunni insurgent groups, said in an open letter to Obama, "Your election promises rested on change ... we say with you it is time." The letter called for compensation to Iraqis for injuries to property, family or psyche. **REUTERS**

Convicted felon holds slim lead

RACE The fate of a convicted felon will help determine the size of the Democrats' expanded power in the U.S. Senate, and may provide a new job opportunity for failed vice presidential nominee Sarah Palin.

After being found guilty of political corruption last month, Republican Sen. Ted Stevens, 84, of Alaska clung to a narrow lead Thursday in his bid to win an eighth term.

State election officials are sorting through thousands of absentee ballots.

The officials say they do not expect to announce a winner for at least several days.

If challenger Mark Begich pulls it out, it would increase to seven the number of Senate seats Democrats have gained from Tuesday's national election, boosting their majority to 58 in the 100-member chamber.

Two other Senate races in Tuesday's election have also not yet been decided,

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Angola.....14.9¢ Niger.....13.9¢
Libya24.9¢ South Africa 7.9¢
Morocco18.9¢ Sudan.....12.9¢

Latin America

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Haiti.....16.9¢ Bolivia.....6.9¢
Honduras....15.9¢ Chile.....2.9¢
Panama.....3.9¢ Colombia.....3.9¢
Uruguay....7.9¢ Dominican Rep.....6.9¢
Venezuela.....2.9¢ Mexico.....2.9¢

Middle East

JORDAN 4.9¢/min	LEBANON 9.9¢/min
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Bahrain.....5.9¢ Kuwait.....6.9¢
Egypt.....14.9¢ Oman.....17.9¢
Iran.....3.9¢ Saudi Arabia.....3.9¢
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TELL OTHER METRO READERS WHAT YOU THINK

Comment & Views

Comment

For duties done in history unwritten

My father was 34 when he enlisted in the Royal Canadian Air Force, a week before Christmas in 1940. It's hard to remember now that, halfway through the second year of World War Two, winning didn't look like a sure thing for the Allies — at this point just Britain and the Commonwealth countries. It would be six months before Germany invaded Russia, and another year before Japan attacked Pearl Harbor, and no one expected Britain to hold out until then.

From where we sit, history always looks inevitable; a single outcome never less than ordained, all the drama and anxiety long since evaporated. World War One was supposed to be over in a few months but dragged on for over four years, but by the time my father enlisted there were credible scenarios imagining the war with Germany and Italy lasting a decade, perhaps longer.

John Babcock is the only surviving Canadian veteran of World War One, and in two or three decades the men who served alongside

my father will be down to a few dozen, perhaps less. The cenotaphs and war memorials around which our Remembrance Day services are held will have been in place for at least a century, and almost no one will be left alive who will remember how crucial they once were — the clos-

est thing to a headstone here for the friends and family of the men and women who were buried all over Europe and Asia.

"They are sending some men over to England from here in the next couple of weeks but I don't expect I'll be going," my father wrote to my mother from his air base outside Ottawa in 1944, just two months after D-Day.

"It's only for six months but they have to pass a medical so that lets me out."

A mechanic, he lost an eye in Dartmouth, N.S., working on a plane less than a year after enlisting, but refused a medical dis-

charge; he would remain in uniform until two months after Japan surrendered, and he would never leave Canada.

Probably because he never thought he'd really risked his life, my father never joined the Legion or marched in a Remembrance Day parade.

For every veteran in their beret in front of the cenotaphs next Tuesday there will be a few men like my father. As the years pass there will be fewer of both, and ever smaller contingents of men and women who served in Korea, on peacekeeping and

UN missions in the Sinai, Somalia, Bosnia or Rwanda, or in Afghanistan.

Remembering will be hard work, but it has to be done, if only as a tribute to the men and women for whom history was anxious and unwritten, motivated by duty, and expecting little more than soldier's pay and the hope that, at least one day a year, the rest of us will commit to the difficult but necessary task of remembering when history was alive.

Rick McGinnis writes about music, movies, books and television, but not opera.

OmniVision



**Rick
McGinnis**

rick.mcginnis@metronews.ca

Views

Blood donations at heart of health care

By DR. BRIAN BERRY

Blood is at the heart of the health-care system. Used to treat trauma victims, people battling cancer, and surgical patients, blood and blood products stabilize, improve and save the lives of hundreds of thousands of Canadians every year.

But, like many other precious resources in our world, blood is in limited supply and it continues to dwindle. It is a simple case of supply and demand.

A dramatic drop in Cana-



Dr. Brian Berry

da's blood inventory in the past eight weeks has elevated an ongoing issue to critical action for all Canadians. Canadian Blood Services normally holds four to six days' worth of all blood types. Last week, that number dropped to just more than two days' worth for some of the most critical blood types.

Currently, no surgeries or

treatments have been postponed or cancelled. Our hospitals are continually watching their blood supplies and ensuring blood products are used without waste.

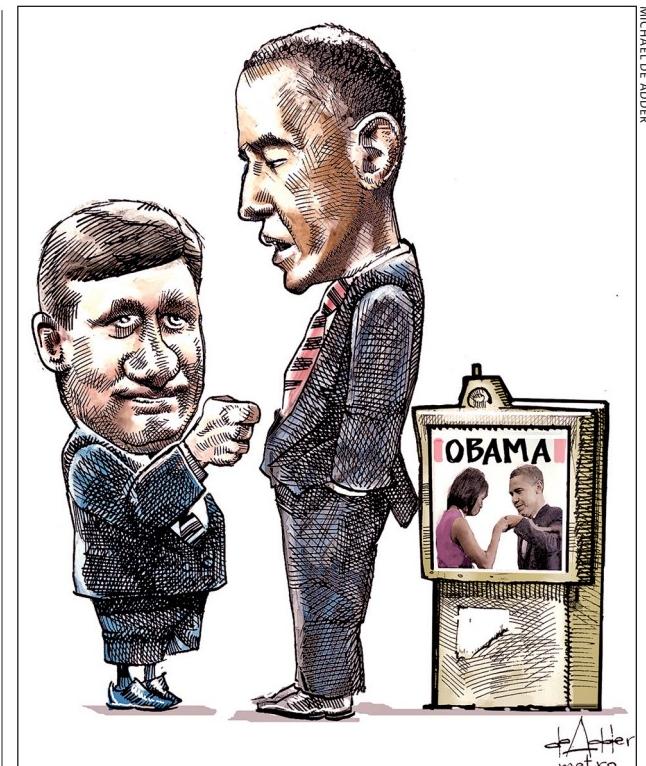
The needs of critical care patients will always be met. However, if the situation does not reverse itself, the needs of less critical patients may have to be delayed. We are preparing for this possibility now as every drop of blood counts toward making a difference in the life of someone who desperately needs it.

Blood is very much at the heart of the health-care system. But it's the blood donors who make that heart pump. Without the generosity, selflessness, and caring of voluntary donors, our heart would stop beating.

Please become a blood donor and please continue to donate. Call 1-888-2-DONATE to book an appointment to give blood.

Dr. Brian Berry is chair of B.C. Transfusion Medicine Advisory Group and director of hematopathology for Vancouver Island Health Authority.

MICHAEL DE ADAMO



YAHOO! LIFESTYLE

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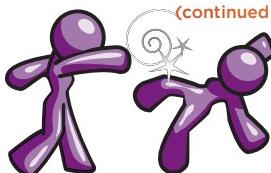
HOW TO BREAK UP WITH A FRIEND

It's a fact: virtually every woman has dumped a friend at some point. It's an incredibly unpleasant experience — for the dumper and the dumpee. After all, cutting ties with a friend is the ultimate betrayal — it's mean, selfish and yet in some cases, completely necessary. Like it or not, some friendships aren't worth saving.

If you're hanging on to a fizzling friendship, it may be time to end it. But instead of icing your friend, take the high road and tell her — tactfully — that it's time to part ways.

"Women stay in bad friendships too long all the time because they don't know the difference between self-care and being self-centred. It's in our nature to soothe people and avoid hurting them," says Allison Wood, an Ottawa-based psychotherapist. "But sometimes you have to choose to let it go. It's hard to do, but you'll feel better in the long run."

(continued online...)



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Letters

Peter Balagus, CALGARY

Re: \$350 for not scooping, Nov. 4

Pet bylaws can be a frustrating item. From my experience, they are either not enforced because there is nobody to enforce them, or there are loopholes that make them ineffective and non-enforceable.

Correction

In Wednesday's edition, columnist Paul Sullivan suggested that Alberta's solicitor general should see what it feels like to be Tasered himself. In fact, So-

The latest piece of frustrating news is the move to impose \$350 fines on dog owners for not scooping after their pet dog when it does its "business."

Why is the city picking on dog owners again? When will fines be imposed and enforced on cat owners for not picking up after their pets.

licitor General Fred Lindsay and RCMP Commissioner William Elliot were voluntarily Tasered by police on May 1st of this year. Metro regrets the error.



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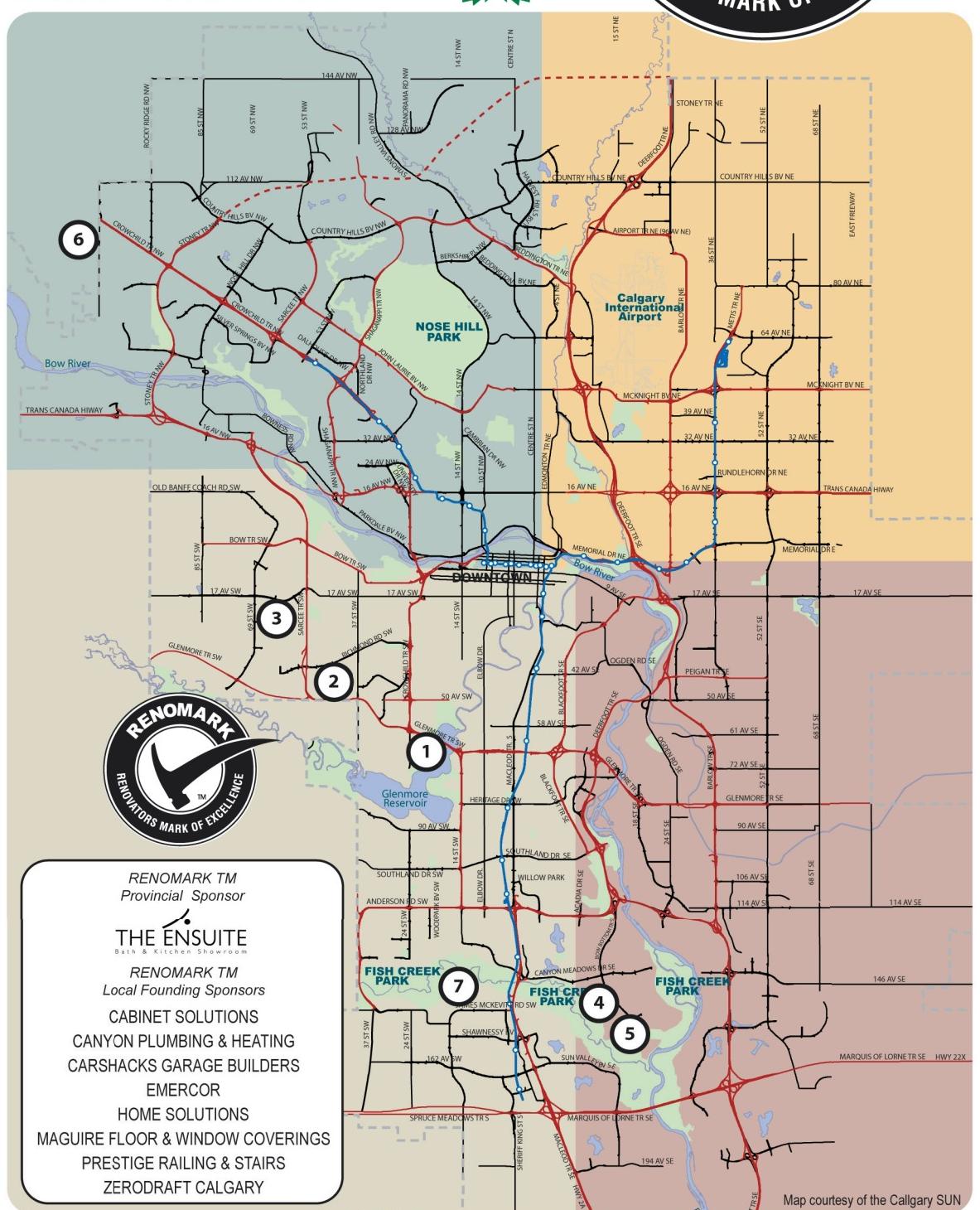
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EDITOR: FERMIN DESOUZA, FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

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Supreme Court sides with brand-name drug makers on med components
The Supreme Court rejected a request from generic drug makers yesterday to prevent brand-name pharmaceutical companies from extending patents on previously patented medicines. Generic makers say it effectively "evergreened" patents. **REUTERS**

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Bailout prudence required: Harper

World leaders should be careful not to overdo their response to the financial crisis even as the global economic outlook worsens by the week, Prime Minister Stephen Harper said yesterday.

Canada's approach to the economic turmoil has contrasted sharply with that of European nations in the lead up to a global summit in Washington next week, with Ottawa advocating prudent regula-

tion and oversight instead of a big overhaul of the world financial system.

"Yes, I think that is a very real concern," Harper told reporters after meeting with economists in Toronto, when asked if

there was a risk of the pendulum swinging too far towards too much government action and regulation. He also noted Canada's financial regulations could be used as a model for other nations. **REUTERS**

Olympics Grand plans for centre



British Columbia Premier Gordon Campbell talks to the media during a ceremony on the roof of the waterfront convention centre in Vancouver yesterday, which will house the international broadcast centre for the 2010 Olympic Games.

Business in brief

SALES Canadian Tire Corp. and Shoppers Drug Mart reported

a jump in third-quarter results **REUTERS**

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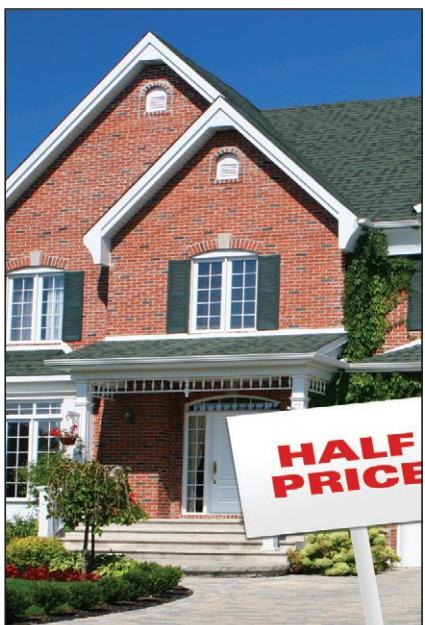
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I'm Diana Hill, and at my free *Probate Profits in Real Estate™* workshop, you'll see how it's possible to search Canadian probate records for phenomenal bargains. Darlene Smith of New Brunswick embraced my system for buying property direct from an estate. She purchased a house from a trustee for just \$19,000. After making repairs, it was appraised at more than \$100,000.

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Baseball likely to eliminate coin flips
Rather than tossing for heads or tails, baseball general managers plan to recommend that sites for division and wild-card tiebreaker games be decided by wins and losses, rather than coin flips. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sports

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Dodgers offer big bucks

The Los Angeles Dodgers have reportedly offered free agent Manny Ramirez a deal that would give him the second-highest average salary in the sport behind Yankees third baseman Alex Rodriguez. The Los Angeles Times reported yesterday that the Dodgers' offer is believed to be for either two years at \$50 million or three years for \$75 million.

SOURCE: ESPN.COM

Flames take wild shootout win

NHL RESULT
Predators 6 Flames 7LAURENCE HEINEN
for Metro Calgary

THE SKINNY: Calgary jumped out to a 5-0 lead and, despite a valiant comeback effort by the Predators, the Flames hung on for a wild win to end their two-game losing streak.

THE FIRST STAR: Captain Jarome Iginla scored twice and set up two others and now has an impressive 23 goals and 21

assists in 34 games against the Preds during his career.

THE SLUMP BUSTER: Craig Conroy broke out of a 10-game goalless drought as he scored twice in the opening frame and also set up defenceman Corey Sarich's first goal of the campaign.

THE GIVEAWAY: Nashville's starting netminder Pekka Rinne attempted to play the puck and instead put it onto the stick of Todd Bertuzzi, who set up Rene Bourque for his third goal of the season.

THE HOOK: After Rinne gave up four goals on 10 shots in the first period, Dan Ellis started the second period in net for the Predators and stopped 16 of 19



Craig Conroy slides one past Predators goalie Pekka Rinne during the Flames four-goal first period en route to Calgary's 7-6 win last night.

shots the rest of the way.

THE WORKHORSE: Miikka Kiprusoff has now started and finished all 14 games for the 8-1 Flames this season.

ROAD WEARY: The Predators started off a six-game, 13-day road trip with two straight setbacks to drop their record away from Nashville to a woeful 1-5-1.

THE NEXT GAME: The Flames visit Columbus to play the Blue Jackets on Saturday (5 p.m., Fan 960) for the first of back-to-back road games on consecutive nights.

Brodeur has surgery on elbow

NHL New Jersey Devils goaltender Martin Brodeur, below, had surgery yesterday to repair his torn left biceps near the elbow. "According to the doctors, his surgery was 100 per cent successful," Devils president and general manager Lou Lamoriello said. "The timetable for his return remains three to four months." Kevin Weekes has replaced Brodeur as the Devils' No. 1 goaltender.

Cramming more seats into Fenway

BASEBALL The Boston Red Sox are adding more seats to 96-year-old Fenway Park. The team is adding 560 new seats to Major League Baseball's oldest and smallest ballpark. It's the eighth year of ballpark improvements since the team was purchased by the group led by John Henry and Tom Werner.

This year's work also includes waterproofing and repairing the lower deck, fixing the roof beyond third base and adding seats to the upper deck beyond the first base line.

Walter in running for Hec Crighton

CIS Calgary running back Matt Walter is among the finalists for the Hec Crighton trophy given to Canada's top University football player. Walter, a Calgary native, ran for 904 yards and four TDs, averaging 6.1 yards per carry.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Broncos comeback beats Browns

NFL Jay Cutler passed for 447 yards and three touchdowns, outdueling an effective Brady Quinn in his first NFL start, as Denver beat Cleveland 34-30 after scoring 21 fourth-quarter points.

Eddie Royal caught six passes for 164 yards, including a 93-yard score in the fourth quarter, while Brandon Marshall hauled in six passes for 89 yards and a score for Denver (5-4), which also got 92 yards receiving from tight end Tony Scheffler.

Quinn was solid in his first start, going 23-of-35 for 239 yards with two touchdowns and no interceptions.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Blue Jays interested in Milton Bradley?

York Report
Marty York

marty.york@metronews.ca

He has a personal policy of never smiling during games. He once was suspended for spitting gum at an umpire. He has, without explaining his reasons, gone for weeks at a time without speaking to his teammates. He is, in no uncertain terms, a brat.

But **Milton Bradley** is a brat with a bat, a pretty

productive bat, and there's a good chance it'll be in the heart of the Blue Jays' order next season.

Sources tell Metro that Canada's MLB franchise has decided to diligently pursue Bradley as a free agent.

"We need offensive help," a front-office source with the Jays confirmed, "and Bradley won't be nearly as expensive as **Manny Ramirez** or **Mark Texeira** (other big-name batters on the free-agent market). Obviously, we know Bradley's reputa-

tion. We know what he's like. He plays angry, for whatever reason. But we think the pros outweigh the cons with him. Just look at his stats."

Bradley, 30, has been with five major-league teams since starting his big-league career with the Montreal Expos in 2000. He has a .280 career average and 103 home runs in 2,832 at-bats. Last year, with the Texas Rangers, he hit a career-

Bradley hit a career-high .327 last season.

high .327, with 22 homers.

The Jays will have at least one significant challenger for Bradley's services.

The AL champion Tampa Bay Rays also are making plans to go after him. • Overheard at the Raptors' game in Toronto Wednesday night: Members of the **Detroit Pistons** kibitzing with Raptors star **Chris Bosh** and suggesting that their club likely will dangle megabucks in front of him when he becomes a free agent in the summer of 2010.

Marty York has been a groundbreaking sports columnist and broadcaster in Canada for decades.

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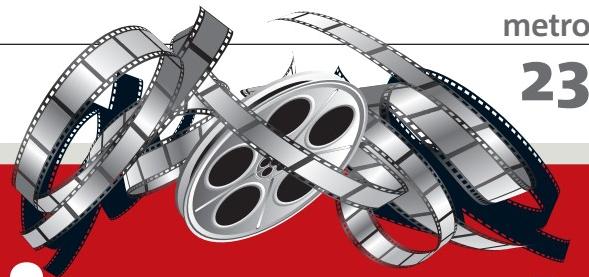
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23

Movies & Entertainment

EDITOR: TINA COSTANZA, TINA.COSTANZA@METRONEWS.CA

Movies

Craig's elemental Bond

Pg 24



Daniel Craig returns to the role of superspy James Bond in *Quantum Of Solace*. His portrayal is said to be closer to writer Ian Fleming's idea of the hero than any other actor who's played the iconic character.

movies

Pg 24



Leading men deliver the laughs in *Role Models*.

music

Pg 30



Kings of Leon take on a more polished sound.

entertainment

Pg 31

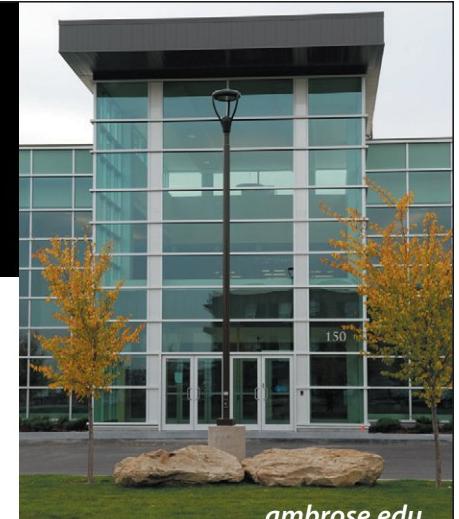


Michael J. Fox finds irony in *Rescue Me* role.

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24 movies&entertainment

Sing-a-long High School Musical
Think you can sing like Vanessa Hudgens and Zac Efron? A sing-a-long version of High School Musical 3: Senior Year, begins playing today at Scotiabank Theatre in Calgary. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Movies

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Craig's Bond

RICK MCGINNIS
Metro Canada

Onscreen, Daniel Craig's James Bond is laconic, a coiled spring of potentially lethal energy with an almost lizard-like appraising gaze that's closer to writer Ian Fleming's idea of his hero than any actor who's ever played the role.

In person, he's chatty and anxious, frequently apologizing for coming up with answers on the fly, and unwilling to offer himself as any kind of authority on Bond outside of his own incarnation of the role.

After the successful re-launch of the series with Casino Royale, we catch up with Craig's Bond at the start of the new film, Quantum Of Solace, mere minutes after the last film ended. Craig admits that he hasn't any idea of where, or when, he'll be taking Bond in any further film, but that a sequel to Casino Royale felt inevitable.

"The idea of doing a sequel only happened when we seemed to have unfinished business," Craig recalls. "He'd fallen in love and had his heart broken and been betrayed, which was the big message we were trying to put across in Casino Royale.

"Being betrayed had thrown him — this is a man who never loses at cards, never loses at love, never loses at anything."

Craig's Bond is often described as a more elemental Bond than any of his predecessors, free of the self-satire of Roger Moore or Pierce Brosnan's over-refined 007, and even more brutal than Sean Connery's original. He reluctantly agrees, but insists that it has to be taken in context.

"I know they're saying he's much tougher and has a much harder edge, but I haven't done anything to modernize the character. If anything, I've tried to cling



Daniel Craig returns to the role of James Bond in next Friday's release of Quantum of Solace.

to the past," he said.

"I want him to remain misogynistic, because I love the debate between him and (Judi Dench's) M there. Because M is the balance; he's the one that's behaving badly as a man and she's the one slapping him down, and I like that balance."

"And I also like that being put against stronger women characters is a much more interesting dynamic. That there is something archaic about him. He's a soldier, and there is something that being trained as a soldier instills in a human being, and it's not being nice."

Role Models packs laughs

Role Models

Director: David Wain

Stars: Paul Rudd, Seann William Scott

Classification: 14A

Rating: ●●●●

RICK MCGINNIS
Metro Canada

REVIEW Without its leading men — using the term loosely in this case — Role Models would be just another instalment in the sub-Apatow genre, which is to say a comedy based on character and dialogue and the odd kick in the nuts.

Paul Rudd and Seann William Scott play best friends edging into their thirties who've reacted to the creeping milestone by either lapsing into growing despair (Rudd's Danny) or clinging to a value system forged during a particularly successful spring break (Scott's Wheeler).

They get jolted out of their ruts when they're given a choice between jail and community service in a Big Brother-type mentor-

ing program, after totaling their company truck during an outburst brought on by a breakup and too many energy drinks.

Both actors have reliable personas that do most of the heavy lifting for them; Rudd brings to mind the first serious boyfriend most women have — the one who hated all her friends and quietly resented that she made more money.

No matter what Scott accomplishes in his career, he'll probably always be known for playing Stifler in the American Pie movies, a character of iconic importance for a generation that has grown from student to first-time homeowner since he first embodied the role, which for this anxious cohort has a status that earlier generations once reserved for Rhett Butler or Rick from Casablanca.

Rudd and Scott are simply the best parts of a great cast that delivers a barrage of laughs, the highlight of which is probably the most perfect explanation of KISS ever committed to film.

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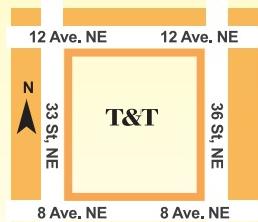
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Sylvester Stallone and Jason Statham have become expendable. The pair will join Jet Li, who's in final negotiations, to appear in *The Expendables*, an action film that Stallone wrote and will direct. **REUTERS**

Reel Time

●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●● EXCELLENT; ●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR



In *Outsourced*, Josh Hamilton plays an American who moves to India for work.

Objective eye introduces India's culture to West

Outsourced

Director: John Jeffcoat
Stars: Josh Hamilton, Asif Basra, Ayesha Dharker
Classification: PG
Rating: ●●●●

BRIAN COULTON
for Metro Canada

REVIEW When one considers a hotdog warmer, giant cheese hat and ceramic bald eagle, what comes to mind? America, of course!

These items, and more patriotic junk, make their mark in the clever new romantic comedy, *Outsourced*, which explores what happens when an American novelty company subcontracts their customer service to India.

Western Novelty employee Todd Anderson (Josh Hamilton) is one of the first to learn that his company will be sending their order fulfillment department eastbound. Left with a decision between losing his job and training the new Indian branch, detached Anderson picks up and heads off to a country with a culture and lifestyle totally opposite to his own.

Charmingly ignorant of Indian customs, Todd tries to learn the lay of the land while coaching his eastern replacement, Purohit (Asif Basra), whose flexible nature is a stark contrast to Anderson's abrasive management style.

In the process, Todd also begins to fall for alluring call centre worker Asha (Ayesha Dharker) who opens his eyes to India and makes him realize he must abandon the American way for the Indian

one, for the value he learns is not in the product but the people.

Outsourced uses an objective eye to introduce Indian culture to an American and reflects quite pointedly on stateside self-consumption. The process by which Todd increases his openness and understands the importance of identification over indoctrination both allows his character to succeed and command the situation mostly forced upon him.

Moving from teaching the Indian team to speak like Americans ("it's Chicaah-go" he whines) to rolling with the punches and relocating the group to the roof when the office floods, Todd's growth is quick and comprehensive.

But it's not too fast to pass over the key bits of humour like Todd constantly being robbed by the same child, his anti-ethnic food appetite and the locals referring to him as Mr. Toad.

The comedy of Todd's coming to terms with the landscape is matched by the sparkling way Asha teaches him to let go of preconceptions in labour and love. Understanding why she acts how she does allows Todd to understand himself better; absorption retained when he must inevitably leave the country he's learned savour.

Also in theatres

- Also opening this week is the comedy *Soul Men*. There are no pre-screenings of the movie, but visit metronews.ca/movies on Sunday — and read Monday's edition of Metro — for a full review.

An honest look at family

Director Jonathan Demme returns to form in *Rachel Getting Married*

Rachel Getting Married

Director: Jonathan Demme
Stars: Anne Hathaway, Rosemarie DeWitt
Classification: 14A
Rating: ●●●●½

KEVIN COURIER
for Metro Canada

During the '80s, director Jonathan Demme (*Melvin and Howard*, *Something Wild*) demonstrated one of the most open, democratic spirits in American movies.

But it was after he was honoured with an Academy Award for the uncharacteristically turgid *Silence of the Lambs* in 1991, that celebrated open-heartedness went largely missing from his work (*Philadelphia*, *Beloved*).

In the moving and richly textured *Rachel Getting Married*, Demme's supple touch thankfully returns. Like last year's *Margot at the Wedding*, *Rachel Getting Married* also examines unresolved family issues



Anne Hathaway plays Kym, the black sheep of her family, in *Rachel Getting Married*.

and the skeletons that come tumbling out of the closet. But unlike the smugly mean-spirited Margot, *Rachel Getting Married* is an honest and affectionate picture about dysfunctional people.

Kym (Anne Hathaway), the black sheep of the clan, returns to her family home for the wedding of her sis-

ter Rachel (Rosemarie DeWitt). But her arrival initially stirs up more grief than happy memories. Throughout the course of the day, the party struggles to find union and an acceptance of their differences.

Without a trace of self-consciousness, Anne Hathaway gives her most vividly engaging performance

on the screen. She is given ample support as well from a terrific ensemble including DeWitt, Bill Irwin as her desperate-to-please father, and Debra Winger as her quietly anxious mother. In *Rachel Getting Married*, Jonathan Demme has once again renewed his vows with the movie audience.

Plenty of jokes in Madagascar sequel

Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa

Director: Eric Darnell, Tom McGrath
Stars: Ben Stiller, Chris Rock
Classification: G
Rating: ●●½

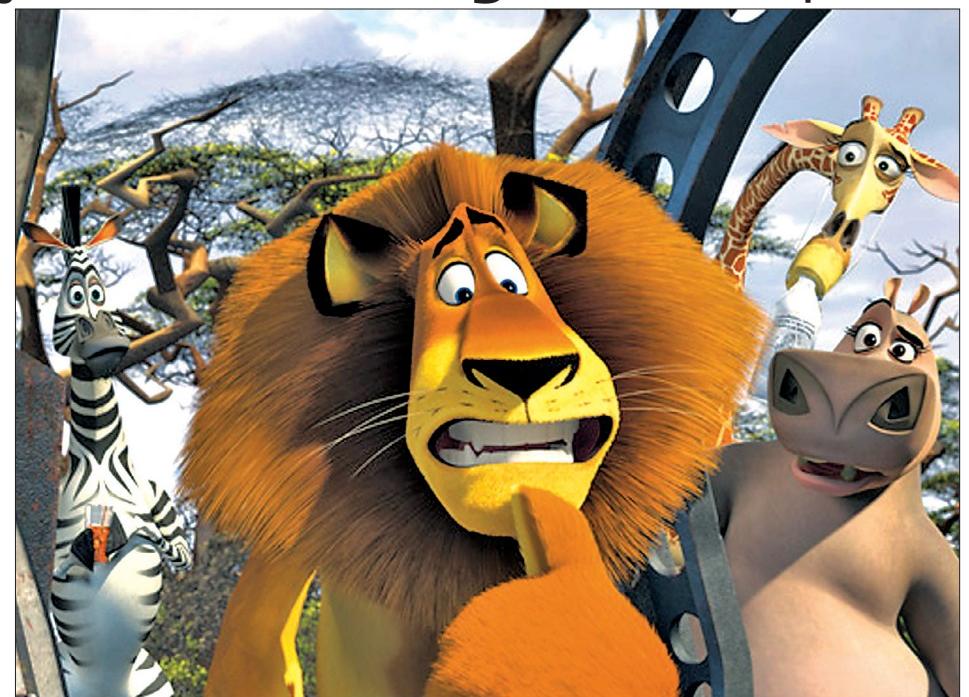
STEVE GOW
for Metro Canada

REVIEW If it ain't broke, don't fix it. Yes, it's an archaic, overused adage, but when it comes to *Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa*, it also applies.

After all, since the original raked in over \$530 million dollars worldwide in 2005, there was certainly no doubt we would see a sequel. But who knew it would be more bloated than its predecessor's box-office take?

Set shortly after the first movie's conclusion, Alex the lion (Ben Stiller), Marty the zebra (Chris Rock) and the rest of the Manhattan-raised crew of animals are marooned in Madagascar.

After barely fixing a battered plane to return home, the group crash lands in an African wildlife reserve. There, each of the main charac-



Alex the lion (voiced by Ben Stiller) returns in the new *Madagascar* film.

ters set out on their own brief journey of discovery — most notably Alex, who reunites with his feline folks (voiced by Sherri Shepherd and the late Bernie Mac).

Now, *Madagascar 2* isn't without its improvements: It has plenty of jokes and inside-gags for the adults but they're mostly just recycled sensibilities from the 2005

film. Plus, after 3 years of technological advancements, the quality of animation is ever-increasingly remarkable — especially broad scenes of the African grasslands.

But of course, the story is what really counts and *Madagascar 2* tells too many tales.

The movie also gives a lot more screen-time to manic lemur King Julien

(Sacha Baron Cohen) and those cunning penguins but even the novelty of those characters has worn somewhat stale three years yonder.

Besides, with no less than 13 central characters to flush out this time around, *Madagascar 2* has enough to accomplish in 89 minutes without piling on more plot points about crafty critters.

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Quote of the week

"Reading the script, I knew that one of the major functions is to be the supporting boyfriend, what in a straight movie would be the supporting wife role ... "For a female actress, maybe that would sound like, 'Oh, no, another supporting wife role.' But I've never been offered that part."

ACTOR JAMES FRANCO TALKS ABOUT PORTRAYING THE BOYFRIEND TO ASSASSINATED POLITICIAN HARVEY MILK IN THE SOON-TO-BE-RELEASED BIO-FILM MILK.

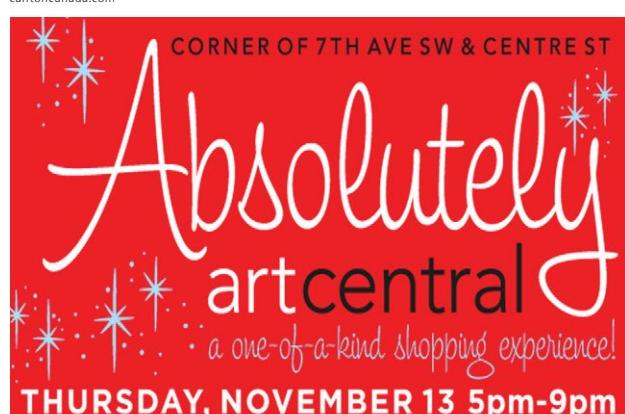
L.A. TIMES



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metronews.ca/movies

Farrelly brothers attached to Stooges project

The Three Stooges may be back on the big screen. MGM is in the process of acquiring the film rights to the Stooges from Warner Bros. Filmmakers Peter and Bobby Farrelly are attached to direct the project. **REUTERS**

Movie morsels

Beverly Hills Chihuahua

●●

REVIEW These days, it seems Hollywood producers are all wondering the same thing: If my dog could speak, what would it say? Well, Beverly Hills Chihuahua is the latest talking animal flick to heed that query. Featuring the voices of Drew Barrymore, Andy Garcia and other celebs, Chihuahua is a harmless "tail" about a snooty, rich lapdog that gets lost in Mexico and must journey back to Rodeo Drive. **Steve Gow/Metro Canada**

Changeling

●●●●

REVIEW Directed by legendary icon Clint Eastwood, Changeling tells the emotional journey of Christine Collins (Angelina Jolie), a mother in 1920s Los Angeles who comes home to find her son missing. Following weeks of relentlessly searching, the police suddenly show up with her child. Great. Only

there's a catch: It ain't him. **Steve Gow/Metro Canada**

The Haunting of Molly Hartley

●½

REVIEW The Haunting of Molly Hartley is a choppy, disjointed movie short on scares and story. It's like they couldn't wait to make a movie, so they plowed ahead with the production without developing a plot. The script is lazy: Stuff happens that isn't connected, you can see some events coming a mile away, and a baffling ending that explains nothing. **Jim Reyno/Metro Canada**

High School Musical 3: Senior Year

●●½

REVIEW It's very likely that only a handful of adults have seen the previous two High School Musical incarnations that follow the dancing and singing students of Albuquerque's Eastside High. Adults can actually attend the movie without too much fear. Sure, the storyline is very basic, and squeaky Mickey Mouse-clean — you may doze off occasionally —



Angelina Jolie stars in Clint Eastwood's film, Changeling.

but there is great energy in this film. **Steve Veale/For Metro Canada**

Max Payne

●●●½

REVIEW Max Payne is another hit video game-turned-Hollywood blockbuster. As the title character, Mark Wahlberg is an angry, mav-

erick cop who is determined to find the savages who killed his wife and child. Shirk his civic duty, Payne conspires with a sexy assassin — Mila Kunis of That '70s Show — and discovers a dark underworld that may be connected to otherworldly demons. **Steve Gow/Metro Canada**

W.

●●●●

REVIEW Perhaps the most surprising aspect of Oliver Stone's impressive new film is just how well rounded of a portrayal he's made of George W. Bush. Make no mistake, Stone does not present Bush as a strong leader by any stretch of the imagination, but he does at least explain how he managed to make his many mistakes in a manner that seems plausible and disturbingly relatable. **Phil Brown/For Metro Canada**

Zack and Miri Make a Porno

●●●½

REVIEW Zack And Miri Make A Porno is a very sweet romantic comedy about two best friends discovering their love for one another. Granted they discover it while having sex on camera for a quick buck — but it is very sweet nonetheless. Summarizing the plot is pointless because the title says it all. It's also a good litmus test. If the title makes you laugh you'll probably enjoy the movie. **Phil Brown/For Metro Canada**

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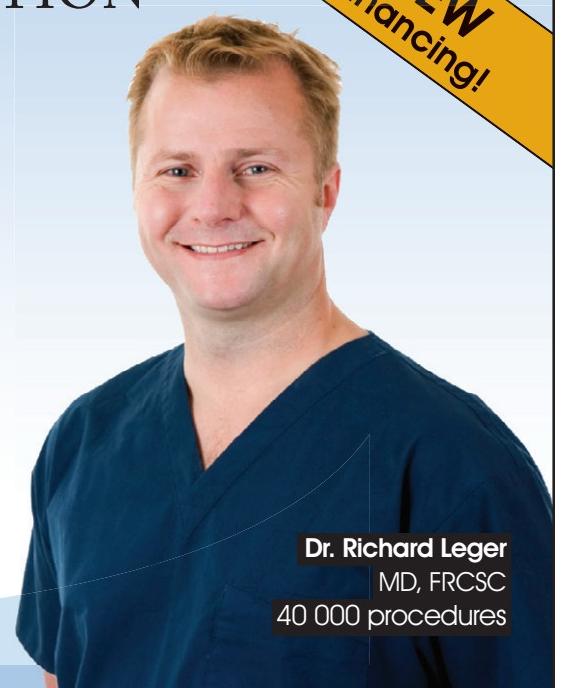
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This week's new releases are highlighted in red.

THESE PAGES COVER MOVIE START TIMES FROM FRI., NOV. 7 TO THURS., NOV. 13. TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

CANYON MEADOWS

Bay 110 13226 Macleod Trail,

403-670-5444

Appaloosa (14A) Fri-Thu 12:55-3:40-7:10-9:35
Babylon A.D. (14A) Fri-Thu 9:55
The Dark Knight (PG) Fri-Thu 1:45-25-8:15
The Express (PG) Fri-Thu 3:50-7
Flash of Genius (PG) Fri-Thu 1:10-9:45
Ghost Town (PG) Fri-Thu 1:15-3:40-6:55-10
Igor (PG) Fri-Thu 1:25-4:05-7:10
Kung Fu Panda (PG) Fri-Thu 1:25
Mamma Mia! (PG) Fri-Thu 1:30-4:10-7:15-9:50
My Best Friend's Girl (18A) Fri-Thu 9:35
Nights in Rodanthe (PG) Fri-Thu 1:40-20-7:20
Righteous Kill (14A) Fri-Thu 9:15
Tropic Thunder (14A) Fri-Thu 3:50-6:50-9:20
WALL-E (G) Fri-Thu 1:15-4:05-7:10
The Women (PG) Fri-Thu 12:50-3:25-6:55-9:40

CROWFOOT CROSSING

91 Crowfoot Terrace, 403-547-3316

Body of Lies (14A) Fri-Thu 12:50-4:25-10:25
Changeling (14A) Fri-Mon 12:45-3:50-7:05-10:20 Tue 3:50-7:05-10:20 Wed-Thu 12:45-3:50-7:05-10:20 Star & Strollers Screening Tue 1
Eagle Eye (14A) Fri-Thu 1:20-4:20-7:20-10:15
The Haunting of Molly Hartley (14A) Fri-Thu 12:55-3:15-6:30-9:50
High School Musical 3: Senior Year (G) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:30-3:30-7:9:45
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:20-1:10-2:45-4:10-5:10-7:10-9:30-9:55
Max Payne (14A) Fri-Wed 9:40 Thu 1:05
The Metropolitan Opera: Doctor Atomic (STC) Sat 11
Passchendaele (14A) Fri-Thu 12:35-3:45-6:45-10
Role Models (14A) No Passes Fri-Mon 1:30-4:05-7:30-10:30 No Passes Tue 4:05-7:35-10:30 No Passes Wed-Thu 1:30-4:05-7:35-10:30 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Tue 1
Saw V (18A) Fri 12:40-3:5-7:40-10:05 Sat 3:5-15-7:40-10:05 Sun-Thu 12:40-3:5-7:40-10:05
Zack and Miri Make a Porno (18A) Fri-Thu 1:40-4:30-6:50-10:00

EAU CLAIRE MARKET

200 Barley Parade, 403-263-3166

Burn After Reading (14A) Fri 7:10 Sat-Tue 12:35-3:15-7:10 Wed-Thu 7:10
Changeling (14A) Fri 6:30-9:40 Sat-Tue 12:30-6:30-9:40 Wed-Thu 6:30-9:40
Happy-Go-Lucky (14A) Fri 6:50-9:50 Sat-Tue 12:20-3:30-6:50-9:50 Wed-Thu 6:50-9:50
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) No Passes Fri 7:10-9:45 No Passes Sat-Tue 12:10-2:30-4:45-7:10-9:45 No Passes Wed-Thu 7:10-9:45
Rachel Getting Married (STC) Fri 6:40-10:05 Sat-Tue 12:15-3:6-40-10:05 Wed-Thu 6:40-10:05
Religious (14A) Fri 6:45-9:30 Sat-Tue 12:30-3:10-6:45-9:30 Wed-Thu 6:45-9:30

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Beverly Hills Chihuahua (G) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Tue 12:05-2:45
Body of Lies (14A) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Fri-Tue 1:05-3:55-6:45-9:40 Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Wed-Thu 6:45-9:40
Changeling (14A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Tue 12:15-3:25-6:50-9:55 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 6:50-9:55
Eagle Eye (14A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 6:55-9:35
The Haunting of Molly Hartley (14A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Tue 1:20-3:45-7:45-9:55 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 6:45-9:55
High School Musical 3: Senior Year (G) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Tue 12:30-1-3:05-3:35-6:45-7:15-9:20-9:50 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 6:45-9:50
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) No Passes, Stadium Seating Fri-Tue 1:20-3:25-3:30-4:40-6:40-7:10-9:20-9:50
Role Models (14A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Tue 1:20-3:25-6:50-9:55 Wed-Thu 6:45-9:55



Seth Rogen as Zack and Elizabeth Banks as Miri in a scene from Kevin Smith's *Zack and Miri Make a Porno*, which is currently in theatres.

Seating Wed-Thu 6:40-7:10-9:9-25-9:45
Max Payne (14A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 9:15

Passchendaele (14A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Tue 1:10-4:25-7:25-10:10 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 7:20-10:05

Quantum of Solace (14A) No Passes, SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 1:30-7:9-20

RocknRolla (14A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Tue 1:45-4:25-7:25-10:10 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 7:25-10:10

Role Models (14A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Tue 12:45-1:15-3:10-3:40-7:05-7:35-9:30-10 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 7:35-9:30-10

Saw V (18A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Tue 2:45-7:50-10:10 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 7:50-10:10

The Secret Life of Bees (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Tue 12:25-3:30-6:30-9:30 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 6:30

Zack and Miri Make a Porno (18A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Tue 1:50-4:30-7:40-10:15 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 7:40-10:15

Fri-Thu 10
Passchendaele (14A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:20-3:10-7:15-9:55

Quantum of Solace (14A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 1:20-3:10-7:15-9:55

Role Models (14A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:30-7:9-20

Saw V (18A) DTS Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 7:05-9:50 DTS Digital, Stadium Seating Thu 7

Zack and Miri Make a Porno (18A) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Fri-Thu 1:30-7:30-10:30

GLOBE CINEMA
617-8 Avenue, 403-262-3308

Passchendaele (14A) Fri 7:10-9:30 Sat-Sun 1:10-3:30-7:10-9:30 Mon 7:10-9:30 Tue 1:10-3:30-7:10-9:30 Wed-Thu 7:10-9:30

The Secret Life of Bees (PG) Fri 7:25 Sat-Sun 1:25-7:25 Mon 7:25 Tue 1:25-7:25 Wed-Thu 7:25

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The Dark Knight (PG) Fri-Thu 1:30-7:30

Fashion (STC) Fri-Thu 2-8:30

Ghost Town (PG) Fri-Thu 12:55-3:45-7:9-5:00

Golmaal Returns (PG) Fri-Thu 6:30-9:15

Igor (PG) Fri-Thu 1:15-4

Journey to the Center of the Earth (PG) Fri-Thu 1:10-3:55-6:45-10:05

Mamma Mia! (PG) Fri-Thu 12:45-3:35-6:50-9:45

The Other End of the Line (PG) Fri-Thu 9:45

Righteous Kill (14A) Stadium Seating, DTS Digital Fri-Thu 12:50-4:20-7:20

Sat Sri Akal (STC) Fri-Thu 4:15-6:30

Tropic Thunder (14A) Fri-Thu 12:50-3:40-10:00

WALL-E (G) Fri-Thu 1:30-6:40

SCOTIABANK CHINOOK
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Beverly Hills Chihuahua (G) Fri-Thu 1:10-

4:10
Body of Lies (14A) Fri-Thu 12:50-3:50-7:20-10:25

Burn After Reading (14A) Fri-Wed 12:45-3:45-6:55-10:05 Thu 12:45-3:45-10:05

Changeling (14A) Fri-Thu 12:15-3:40-7:05-10:20

Eagle Eye (14A) Fri-Thu 1:05-4:05-7:9-45

The Haunting of Molly Hartley (14A) Fri-Thu 1:20-4:20-7:30-10:15

High School Musical 3: Senior Year (G) No Passes Fri-Thu 4:10

High School Musical 3: Senior Year Sing-Along (G) No Passes Fri-Thu 1:05

Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) No Passes Fri-Wed 1:45-7:15-9:50 No Passes Thu 4:15-7:15-9:50 No Passes Fri-Thu 12:30-3:50-7:45-10:20 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Thu 1

Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa: The IMAX Experience (G) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:20-4:40-7:25

Max Payne (14A) Fri-Sun 1:25-4:25-7:30-10:25 Mon 1:25-4:25-10:25 Tue-Thu 1:25-4:25-7:30-10:25

The Metropolitan Opera: Doctor Atomic (STC) Sat 11

Nick and Norah's Infinite Playlist (PG) Fri 1:15-4:20-7:20-10:05 Sat 4:20-7:20-10:05 Sun 1:15-4:20-7:20-10:05 Wed-Thu 1:15-4:20-7:20-10:05

Passchendaele (14A) Fri-Thu 12:45-3:50-7:10-10:20

Pride and Glory (14A) Fri-Tue 6:50-10:15 Wed 10:15 Thu 6:50-10:15

Quantum of Solace (14A) No Passes Thu 12:01

RocknRolla (14A) Fri-Thu 1:05-4:05-7:25-10:30

Role Models (14A) No Passes Fri-Wed 1:20-4:15-7:10-10:10 No Passes Thu 4:15-7:10-10:10 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Thu 1

Saw V (18A) Fri-Thu 12:35-2:50-5:10-7:45-10:30

Zack and Miri Make a Porno (18A) Fri-Thu 1:15-4:10-7:15-10:10

PLAZA THEATRE
1133 Kensington Rd., 403-283-3636

Casablanca (STC) Sun-Tue 2:20

Found Footage Film Festival (STC) Thu 7

Get Animated (STC) Sun 12

Giraf Animation Film Festival (STC) Fri 7-9:30 Sat 5:7-9:30

Gonzo: The Life and Work of Dr. Hunter S. Thompson (14A) Mon 11:30

Tell No One (14A) Fri 4:25 Sat 12:25 Sun 4:25-6:50-9:15 Mon 4:25-6:50-9:15 Tue 12:45-6:50-9:15

Wafflecone Snowboard (STC) Mon 7

SUNRIDGE SPECTRUM
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Beverly Hills Chihuahua (G) Fri 12:05-2:40

Sat 3:15 Sun-Thu 12:05-2:40

Body of Lies (14A) Fri-Thu 12:15-3:20-6:35-9:35

Changeling (14A) Fri-Thu 12:10-3:25-6:45-10:05

Eagle Eye (14A) Fri-Thu 6:50-9:45

The Haunting of Molly Hartley (14A) Fri-Thu 12:45-3:05-7:05-9:25

High School Musical 3: Senior Year (G) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:20-3:10-6:55-9:40

Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) No Passes Fri-Mon 12:15-3:25-6:35-9:30 No Passes Wed-Thu 12:20-3:25-6:3



The bestselling albums at Amazon.ca

1. Black Ice, AC/DC; 2. A Winter Symphony, Sarah Brightman, left; 3. Above the Ground, Burton Cummings; 4. Twilight soundtrack, Various Artists; 5. Funhouse, Pink. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Music

Kings of Leon let loose

Tennessee band adds arena sound to Southern rock arsenal

BRIAN TOWIE
Metro Canada



Kings of Leon is shocked by how expensive their gigs are.

"I've seen tickets to our show that are going for as much as \$415. My girl's friend bought tickets to our show on eBay and they cost her something like three hundred," says drummer Nathan Followill. "I asked, 'Why did you do that? I would have just put you on the guestlist.'"

The recent Stateside success of brothers Caleb, Jared, Nathan and cousin Matthew explains the high prices. Their fourth and most recent album, *Only By The Night*, debuted at No. 5 on the Billboard Top 200 and has sold almost as well as Coldplay's *Viva La Vida*.

All this amid mixed reviews: Critics, one of the most vocal being Oasis' Liam Gallagher, have slammed the band for deviating from their Southern-fried garage rock and opting for a more sexually-charged and keyboard-heavy large arena sound — arguing the rockers from Tennessee are trying to match the European success and notoriety in their native U.S. with a more polished, radio-friendly product.

"I'll say that we're not losing much sleep over



Kings of Leon's latest album, *Only By The Night*, debuted at No. 5 on the Billboard Top 200.

"We're just growing as a band and that's the direction we wanted to go in. We changed our production team to try new stuff that we're too scared to try on our previous release."

Nathan Followill

what he (Gallagher) said," Followill answers. "We're just growing as a band and that's the direction we wanted to go in. We changed our production team to try new stuff that we're too scared to try on our previous releases."

But the hectic touring schedule remains the same

for the band, something the family act is used to. Papa Followill was a traveling Pentecostal preacher, and the brothers spent much of their youth bouncing from church to church throughout America's Bible Belt under a very Christian parental regime: No sex, no movies and absolutely no

rock and roll.

After moving to Nashville in 1998, the Followill boys discovered a newfound freedom, and decided to make up for lost time with wild women, Jack Daniels, marijuana and most importantly, that loud, God-awful rock music.

"We weren't really exposed to it, so we never had too many influences growing up. Rock was the devil's music, you know?" he laughs. "But our folks are cool with it now, and they'll stay that way so long as the Christmas presents keep getting better."

Will Obama rock or pop?

SoundCheck

Alan Cross

alan@ongoinghistory.com

After 21 long months of campaigning, spin-doctoring and mudslinging, the American election is finally over. Between now and inauguration day, Barack Obama will get the nuclear codes, be briefed on the status of the frozen alien bodies at Area 51 and choose a White House puppy for Michelle and the kids. Meanwhile, we'll have to train our spellcheckers to stop underlining "Barack Obama" in a red squiggly line.

Why anyone would actually want to be president is beyond me, especially given the issues America faces these days. The new POTUS certainly has his challenges.

My interest, of course, is what effect the new administration will have on music. I know that sounds crazy, but hear me out.

Beginning in the years after Watergate, there has been a correlation between the party in power and the power struggle between pop and rock. When a Republican occupies the White House, young people tend to rebel against the policies of the administration, resulting in resurgence in rock. Punk exploded after the disgrace of

Nixon while disco arrived almost simultaneously with Jimmy Carter. American hardcore took root during Reagan, setting the stage for grunge and Gen X's Alternative Nation that emerged during George H's time in power.

But when the Clintons changed the drapes in the '90s — and with the end of the first Gulf War and a brutal recession — the world went crazy for pop: 'N Sync, Britney, Backstreet Boys, Spice Girls.

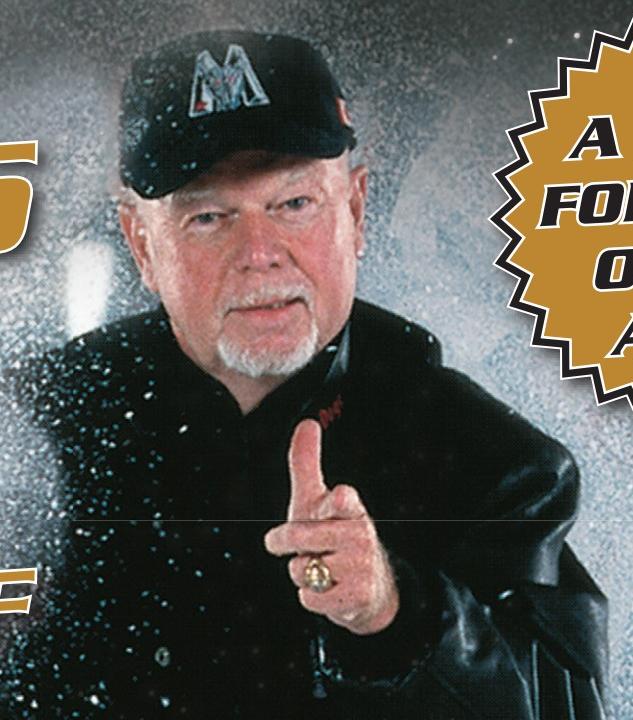
Sept. 11 came with its own musical effects. With America under attack and patriotism on the rise, Mom-and-apple pie country music and comfort food classic rock were ascendant. But by the time we got to W's second term, the public's mood had turned ugly and Green Day started selling millions of copies of *American Idiot*.

So does a President Obama mean that pop music will make a comeback as it has when the Democrats were in charge? Or, as Def Jam founder and producer Russell Simmons believes,

will the Hip-Hop Nation take over? Could Obama's Kenyan heritage result in an up tick in interest for African rhythms and world music? Not necessarily. There's Iraq, Afghanistan and a badly wounded economy. A lot of stuff needs to be cleaned up before America feels well enough to dance like it did in 1999.

The Ongoing History of New Music can be heard on stations across Canada. Read more at exploremusic.com and ongoinghistory.com

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Sheen refutes lap dancing claims

Charlie Sheen has slammed a Star magazine report alleging the star's marriage to pregnant Brooke Mueller is in trouble, blasting claims he indulged in lap dances at a Las Vegas strip club as "inaccurate." [IMDB.COM](#)



Ellen saddened by ban on gay marriages

COMMENT Ellen DeGeneres is devastated with the passing of a ban on gay marriage in California, calling the amendment a "giant step" backward for the United States, [imdb.com](#) reports.

Just over 52 per cent of those who voted on Proposition 8 opposed Ma's Supreme Court ruling, which legalized same-sex unions in the state.

And the openly gay talk-show host insists she is "saddened beyond belief" only unions between heterosexual couples will be recognized in California.

METRO NEWS SERVICE

Galactica items up for auction

Geeks save the date: NBC Universal has finalized plans to auction props, costumes and set pieces from Sci Fi Channel's concluding cult-favorite Battlestar Galactica.

The company has booked a weekend at the Pasadena Convention Center for the auction, coinciding with the return of the show on Jan. 16.

The auction is one of the most elaborate events ever planned around the conclusion of a TV series.

Fans will be flying in from around the world to stay in area hotels to bid on "BSG" items.

Plans include a preview day, panels with various designers on the series, two auction days, an online auction of 200 items and then weekly auctions of additional items thereafter.

The plans will coincide with the final batch of Battlestar episodes airing on Sci Fi Channel.

NBC Universal has embraced fan auctions in the past year as a way to offset rising production costs.

Organizers say that a portion of the auction's proceeds will benefit United Way.

REUTERS

Up for bidding

- Items up for auction will include space ship props, the desk used by Admiral Adama (Edward James Olmos).
- There will also be six to 12 costumes from each major character, including a red dress worn by Caprica-Six (Tricia Helfer).

Fox sees irony in Rescue role

Actor Michael J. Fox, semi-retired from show business due to Parkinson's Disease, said it was ironic that his latest television role was playing a paralyzed man in a wheelchair.

Fox, 47, will appear in four episodes of the fire-fighting drama *Rescue Me* early next year.

The appearance will mark his first prime-time TV role since 2006.

"The funny part is me playing a paralyzed guy because I am the opposite of paralyzed."

"It's tricky just to even be still," Fox told Entertainment Tonight in an interview.

Fox, best known for starring in the *Back to the Future* movies in the 1980s, bowed out of full time acting in 2000.

He said he wanted to spend his time trying to find a cure for Parkinson's Disease.

It's a disorder of the central nervous system that is characterized by tremors.

He described his character in "Rescue Me" as "really dark and misanthropic."

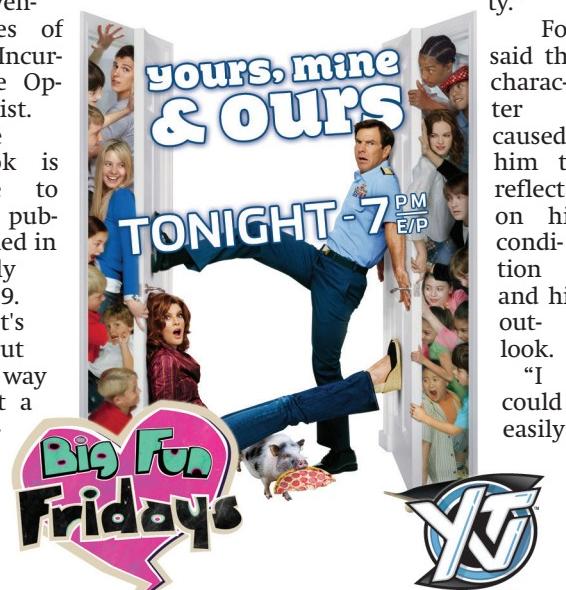
"I could easily have been that guy, were things to happen differently in my life."

Michael J. Fox

He's bitter and nasty. It's really fun," the actor said.

In reality, Fox said his outlook was anything but bitter, saying he has been writing a book about optimism and hope, called *Always Looking Up — The Adventures of an Incurable Optimist*.

The book is due to be published in early 2009. "It's about the way that a cer-



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tain level of acceptance that helps you get through life.

"Then I get to finish it off by playing this dark little nasty guy."

Fox said the character is "embittered by his disability."

Fox said the character caused him to reflect on his condition and his outlook. "I could easily



Actor Michael J. Fox

have been that guy, were things to happen differently in my life," he said.

Fox said he was feeling "pretty good all things considered."

"If you're never down you'll never know how

good it feels to be up."

Fox said "It's a great ride and I wouldn't change a thing."

"I love my life for whatever difficulties there are," he said.

REUTERS

Survivorman says goodbye

END Les Stroud, better known as TV adventurer Survivorman, was chased by a jaguar, nearly dropped dead due to heatstroke and spent a sleepless night among lions.

But now, he's tired of it all and ending his popular series about living in the wild.

Stroud is the Canadian host of the TV show *Survivorman* on the Science Channel in which he spends a week alone in the

REUTERS

New season, same old woes

INDUSTRY Canada's broadcast networks aren't raising the alarm just yet, but the new fall season has done nothing to stem the loss of primetime viewers.

TV viewership in English-speaking Canada, where U.S. series dominate schedules, is down year-over-year by about six per cent, ac-

cording to market-leading networks CTV and Canwest Broadcasting. But

both networks are putting a positive spin on the early returns.

"People should not panic. It's not like (primetime audiences) are down a lot," CTV chief Susanne Boyce said.

"We'd have liked it to have grown," echoed Barb Williams, senior VP programming and production at rival Canwest.

"The conventional has drifted, but there's both some interest in new shows and pretty solid strength in returning shows."

As in past years, it's returning U.S. series that continue to connect with

Canadian viewers. Prime-

time ratings leader CTV has done its best numbers with simulcasts of ABC series including *Grey's Anatomy* and *Desperate Housewives* and CBS' *CSI*, which runs at 8 p.m. Thursdays, an hour before airing in the United States.

no such drift.

"We don't see any evi-

dence at all of any shifting away of 18-49 audience

from our core properties over to theirs," she said, referencing such top-performing Canwest series as *Family Guy*, *Prison Break*, *The Simpsons*, *Heroes* and *Bones*.

Slumping numbers for U.S. series this fall also have allowed openings for local fare.

The top-rated Canadian primetime show this season is CTV's *So You Think You Can Dance Canada*, and the network's Thursday night cop drama *Flashpoint* has performed in reverse

simulcast on CBS statewide.

The Canadians also attribute the year-on-year viewership loss to disruption from the Hollywood writers strike earlier this year, which played havoc with recent purchases of U.S. series, and pre-emptions caused by the Canadian and U.S. election coverage and the recent baseball World Series on Fox.

Canwest's Williams sees

REUTERS

Aniston may be a keeper as Baldwin stalker on 30 Rock

ROLE Jennifer Aniston's guest spot on hit comedy *30 Rock* could turn into a regular role, if castmembers on the show have their way, [imdb.com](#) reports.

The actress plays a woman who stalks TV executive Jack Donaghay, played by Alec Baldwin, in an upcoming episode.

The former *Friends* star wowed cast and crew so much.

So much so that bosses at network NBC are considering asking her to return for more episodes.



Jennifer Aniston

Regular cast member Jane Krakowski told OK magazine, "We'd love to have her."

Sources claim Aniston is keen for a return to the small screen.

Her comeback to television would be four years after the widely popular *Friends* ended its 10-year run.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Dance show to feature the cream of the crop



So You Think You Can Dance

Air date: Wednesday

Network: CTV

THE BIGGEST HIT on Canadian TV heads into the home stretch with the first top 10 episode, and the first where viewer voting narrows the field. In homes across the country, boyfriends and husbands try to disguise how much they're into the show from the girlfriends and wives who are forcing them to watch.



Finding the Fallen

Air date: Tuesday

Network: History

THE SECOND SEASON of this combination of archaeology and biography is just part of History's week of Remembrance-themed shows, which includes programs about Passchendaele, Vimy and Normandy. Finding the Fallen starts with a few bits of bone and brass dug up in France and Belgium, and expands outward to describe a British orphan who moved to Canada, and a man and the horse he rode into battle, among other stories painstakingly reconstructed.

Rick's TV Picks



The Raw Side Of...

Air date: Tuesday

Network: IFC

BROKEN SOCIAL SCENE founder Brendan Canning is the focus of this episode of IFC's documentary series on Canadian indie musicians. Concert footage is cut with glimpses of daily life, which means grimy vans, dingy rehearsal spaces, and cramped apartments and shared houses.

— RICK MCGINNIS/METRO CANADA
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True Blood signalling an HBO resurgence?

IntelleVision



rick.mcginnis@metronews.ca

THAT'S A LOT OF GOTHS AND ANNE RICE FANS: After a slow start, HBO's Sexy! Fresh! Young! vampire drama True Blood has been picking up steam.

According to a story in Broadcasting & Cable magazine, the most recent episode drew 2.35 million live viewers, which when aggregated with replays, delayed viewers and their DVRs, as well as HBO On Demand customers, comes to a whopping 6.4 million viewers — a big improvement

from the scant 1.44 million live viewers who tuned in to the season premiere.

So what does this mean? Is this a promising upturn in HBO's sagging fortunes, or have the kids with the white pancake makeup and kohl

around their eyes become managers at the comic store and started splurging on deluxe cable and TiVos? Only time will tell.

PLEASE DON'T GIVE THE CRTC ANY IDEAS:

Little House On the Prairie, the NBC show based on the Laura Ingalls Wilder books that ran for over a decade in the '70s and '80s, is a hit in syndication in Finland, according to a Reuters story. Having lived through the show's prime-time run, that would mean that there are a lot of little girls in Helsinki with a fondness for gingham

authorities to charge 2 euros (about \$3) for every minute of footage they have to watch to rate a show's age limit. NBC Universal considered this extortionate, considering the length of the show's run, and decided to forego official vetting, which meant that the show's DVD box sets are sold with a sticker stating that they're banned for viewers under 18 — who can watch it every Sunday morning on the state-run broadcaster.

The upside of this is that nerdy college boys and lonely older men will be renting the show to fast forward through in search of nudity, which they'll swear to their friends they saw just to avoid looking like complete creeps.

"OBI-WAN, YOU'RE MY ONLY HOPE":

It took 25 HD cameras set up in a ring around correspondent Jessica Yellin and twenty computers to crunch the data necessary to generate that lame hologram thing

they did on CNN on election night. All so college kids could put bagels over their ears and make Princess Leia jokes while waiting for their cue to trash the McCain/Palin signs outside that frat down the street.

Who knew the future was going to be so pathetic?

Rick McGinnis writes about music, movies, books and television, but not opera.

ABC reduces order for 2 shows

DRAMAS ABC is looking to reduce the order on two of its new midseason dramas, The Castle and The Unusuals.

Sources close to the network said the cutbacks, to 10 episodes from 13 for each, are not for creative but for inventory reasons. ABC already has Lost as well as the drama Cupid and the comedies In the Motherhood, Better Off Ted and The Goode Family launching in midseason. They could be joined by the Courteney Cox comedy Cougar Town, which was fast-tracked last week with a pilot order targeted for midseason.

Castle stars Nathan Fillion as a horror novelist who helps the NYPD solve crimes. The Unusuals, an ensemble comedy-drama set in a New York police precinct, co-stars Amber Tamblyn.

Gone Country to return on CMT

REALITY TV CMT is bringing back its singing competition series Gone Country for a third season.

Celebrities competing for country music stardom this time around include musicians George Clinton and Sheila E., former Miss U.S.A. Tara Conner, singer Taylor Dayne, Monkees lead vocalist/drummer Micky Dolenz, actor Richard Grieco and American Idol first-season runner-up Justin Guarini.

The third season of the series premieres in January.

REUTERS



"It took 25 HD cameras set up in a ring around correspondent Jessica Yellin and twenty computers to crunch the data necessary to generate that lame hologram thing they did on CNN on election night ... Who knew the future was going to be so pathetic?"

tains in the near distance on the wild Minnesota prairie.

It's apparently common practice for Finnish au-

pathetic?

GlobalStyle

Kenya Hunt

Exclusive at metronews.ca/style

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Singer Wilson expecting again
Singer Carnie Wilson is going to be a mother for the second time. Wilson, 40, and husband Rob Bonfiglio, 41, are expecting a baby in June, her rep has confirmed. [PEOPLE.COM](#)

Celebrity Buzz

'I overdid the face filler': Lisa Rinna

BEAUTY Actress Lisa Rinna is opening the lid on a big Hollywood secret by confessing that she had too much of the filler Juvéderm injected into her face, [intouchweekly.com](#) reports.

"We all know everyone does it!" Rinna, 45, tells *In Touch*. "We go on Jenny Craig and do all these things to change ourselves, so why can't we get a little filler?"

But while a little is one thing, Rinna admits she recently overdid it.

"I saw a picture of myself and thought, 'Uh-oh,'" Rinna said after getting too much Juvéderm. "You have to be careful. I'm a perfect example of that!"

"There are many things you can do to make yourself look better," says Rinna, whose fitness DVDs *Lisa Rinna: Dance Body Beautiful* are out in December.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Fame Thrower



WILL RETURN

Madonna begs 'bosom buddy' Paltrow to move to N.Y.: report

FRIENDS Pop star Madonna has reportedly begged actress Gwyneth Paltrow to move to New York, [femalefirst.co.uk](#) reports.

Following her split from husband Guy Ritchie, Madonna is planning to quit London and relocate to the Big Apple.



ple after her Sticky and Sweet world tour finishes next month.

Madonna has relied on Paltrow — who primarily lives in London with husband Chris Martin and their two children — for support since separating from the film director, and wants her to follow her to New York.

"Madonna and Gwyneth are bosom buddies. Gwyneth was a rock to Madonna while she was considering whether to

leave Guy. She had strong views on the situation," a source close to the star told Britain's *The Sun* newspaper.

"They were in constant contact during the difficult period and Madonna really valued Gwyneth's advice."

"Madonna is desperately sad to be leaving one of her best friends behind and has been urging her to join her in New York."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Hefty Jackson's diet book cut

BOOK DEAL Janet Jackson's plans to release a diet book have been shelved because the singer has piled on the pounds, [femalefirst.co.uk](#) reports media as saying.

Jackson had signed a deal to share her weight-loss secrets with fans after shedding 60 pounds in just four months in 2006.

But sources claim the pop superstar has added pounds during her current

Rock Witchu tour, prompting her publishing bosses to back out of the deal.

"It has been postponed indefinitely. It was a mutual decision," an insider tells the *National Enquirer*.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Diaz wouldn't share cigarettes, partygoers say

LIFE Actress Cameron Diaz reportedly upset guests by refusing to share her cigarettes at a party, [femalefirst.co.uk](#) reports.

Diaz, who was attending a lavish Halloween bash hosted by her close friend Drew Barrymore at her Hollywood Hills, Calif., home, managed to annoy other partygoers by spending most of the evening smoking.

"Cameron was outside smoking the whole time, but when a couple of people asked if she had a cigarette, she always said no. It was so rude," a source told the *New York Post* newspaper.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Jolie gets fit with Wii

LIFE Actress Angelina Jolie has been using her children's video games to lose weight, [femalefirst.co.uk](#) reports.

Jolie, who raises six kids with partner Brad Pitt, has been burning off her post-pregnancy pounds with a Nintendo Wii.

The video game console requires players to use their body to control their games' characters.



"Angelina's kids were convincing her that video games were more than just fun."

"They explained to her you can do anything from practise math to learn to read music and exercise," a source said.

"She tries to get in an hour of Pilates three times a week. She's picking it up pretty quickly and is already at the hardest setting!"

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Manson and Wood split over her live-in brother?

BREAKUP Marylin Manson has been dumped by his actress girlfriend Evan Rachel Wood, according to reports.

The couple split after a bitter argument over 21-year-old Wood's brother Ira, who had been living with the celebrity pair, [femalefirst.co.uk](#) reports.

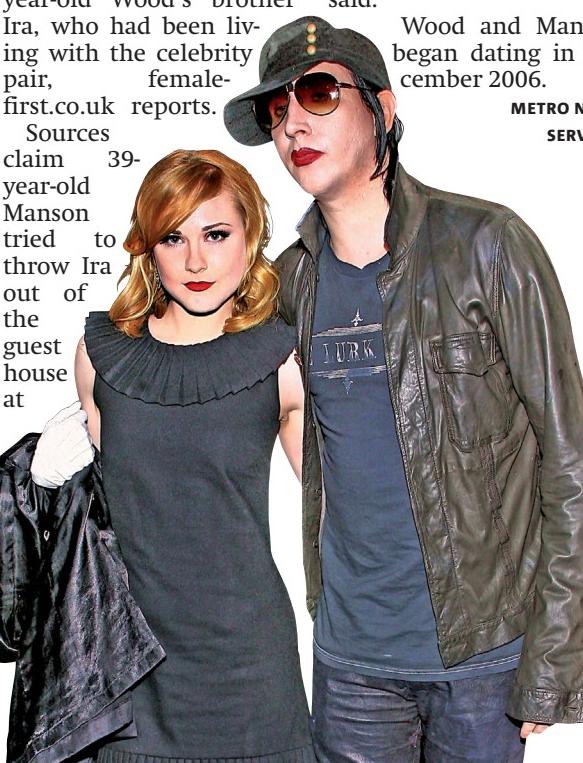
Sources claim 39-year-old Manson tried to throw Ira out of the guest house at

the Hollywood home he shares with his girlfriend.

"Evan owned the house and didn't want her unemployed sibling living on the street. It was the tipping point," an insider said.

Wood and Manson began dating in December 2006.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



'Something seriously wrong' with people who wear fur: Leona Lewis

OPINIONS Singer Leona Lewis has reportedly said people who wear fur have "something seriously wrong with them," [femalefirst.co.uk](#) reports.

Lewis, who is a staunch vegetarian, can't understand why anyone would want to wear a coat made

from animal skin.

"I can't begin to imagine that people who know all these animals have been killed to make a coat can still wear it," she said. "There must be something seriously wrong with them."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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- Shawn Edwards, FOX-TV

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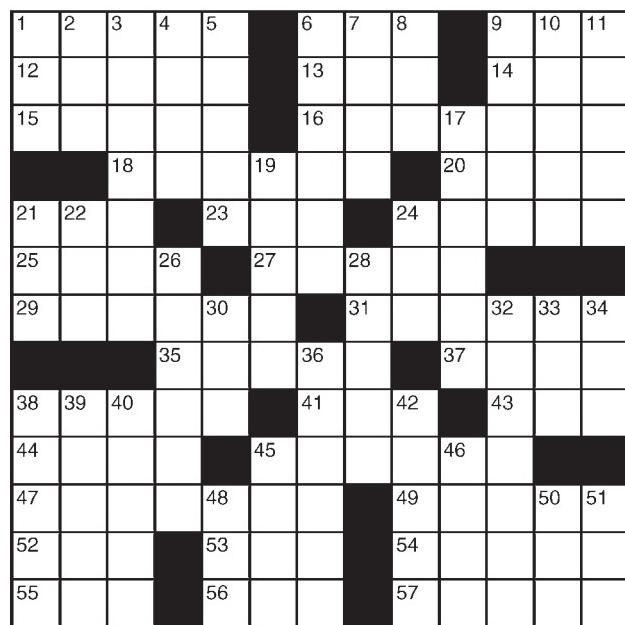
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Take Five



Crossword across

- 1 Mosquitoes, e.g.
6 Hot tub
9 Cosmetics watchdog org.
12 Storage story
13 Allen or Burton
14 Journal
15 Puppeteer Lewis
16 Tombstone mot
18 Vintage Streisand hit
20 Vicinity
21 Puncturing tool
23 Zero
24 Follows orders
25 Owner's draft
27 Ship of the desert
29 Sequence of victories
31 "Queen of Soul"
35 Underground vault
37 Manx's lack
38 Site of emotions
41 Intend
43 Energy
44 "Metamorphoses" poet
45 Third-year student
47 Bug
49 Near
52 Away from WSW
53 Praise in verse
54 So all can hear
55 Scarlet
56 Apiece
57 Judo-like wrestling style

Crossword down

- 1 — de deux
2 Biblical verb suffix
3 Desk gadget
4 Exhaust
5 Offspring
6 "Streetcar ..." role
7 Meerschaum, e.g.
8 Parisian pal
9 Signal light
10 Happy companion
11 Eastern bigwigs
12 Pad
13 Fastidious
14 Commercials
15 Drenched
24 — the fields we go ...
26 Unscramble, maybe
28 Early morning
30 Branch
32 Bar
33 Hasten
34 Matterhorn, e.g.
36 Poor one
38 Viny shelter
39 Sheep-ish?
40 Begat
42 Isinglass et al.
45 Green gem
46 Earthen pot
48 Upper surface
50 Replacement
51 Tokyo's old name

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

GOLD	GAB	SKEW
UVEA	OWE	PISA
REAM	OER	INST
UNPAID	GADGET	
STY	GEL	
DOCK	E THEREAL	
IRA	ARE	ALE
EUPHORIA	BRI	IG
EAR	DNA	
OFFSET	GONGED	
PIES	IKE	ALLI
URAL	LEA	NOON
SERE	TAR	ABLE

2	7	4	5	6	1	9	3	8
8	5	6	3	9	4	1	7	2
3	9	1	8	7	2	6	4	5
1	6	7	9	2	8	4	5	3
9	3	5	7	4	6	2	8	1
4	8	2	1	3	5	7	9	6
5	4	8	2	1	9	3	6	7
6	1	3	4	8	7	5	2	9
7	2	9	6	5	3	8	1	4

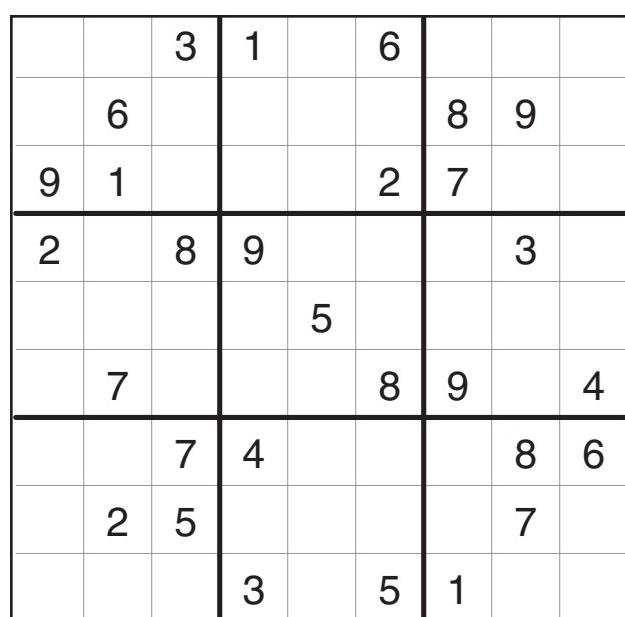
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SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:

- Under 13 min Genius
13-17 min Scholar
17-21 min Smart
21-25 min Not bad
25+ min Keep practising

Sudoku

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.



Horoscopes

ARIES

MARCH 21-APRIL 20



TAURUS

APRIL 21-MAY 21



Avoid competing with an authority figure. A happy change involves an absent-minded friend. Don't interfere with a noisy celebration.

LIBRA

SEPT 23-OCT 23



Your energy level challenges preconceptions. Don't complain to people who don't care. Some benefits are easier to enjoy.

SCORPIO

OCT 24-NOV 22



A strong-willed man appears to be the best choice. A fascinating person boasts about an offer. Someone you love has a difficult experience.

GEMINI

MAY 22-JUNE 21



An important financial event occurs. Make advances toward the bonds of friendship. You're eager for some fresh excitement.

SAGITTARIUS

NOV 23-DEC 21



A devoted friend is getting careless. It's time to heal old wounds. Unexpected problems interfere with someone's hard work.

CANCER

JUNE 22-JULY 22



Someone's infatuation will clear up. An illness has strange consequences. The intolerance of others will surprise you.

CAPRICORN

DEC 22-JAN 20



An obstacle will not be a surprise. A disconcerting matter is revealed by the wrong person. Don't refuse anyone's help.

LEO

JULY 23-AUG 23



Your best friend is available for sympathy. A flirtation will give you new hope. It's not a good day to do battle.

AQUARIUS

JAN 21-FEB 18



Chat up a reluctant person for fun. Helping a friend is the best way to relax. A middle aged woman dictates your next step.

VIRGO

AUG 24-SEPT 22



Remain discreet when faced with hostility. Consider a bitter failure as an opportunity. Tremendous problems will only make things easier.

PISCES

FEB 19-MARCH 20



An adversary will be beaten by being too cautious. A dispute will sabotage a plan. A friend is guilty of an indiscretion.

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